

Mid-2019 Small Area Population Estimates, Scotland



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This statistical report provides population estimates by sex and age for small areas, known as data zones, across Scotland.

Scotland is split into about 7,000 small areas called data zones

Data zones are a small area geography used to provide statistics at local level.

There are 6,976 data zones covering the whole of Scotland and they nest within council areas.

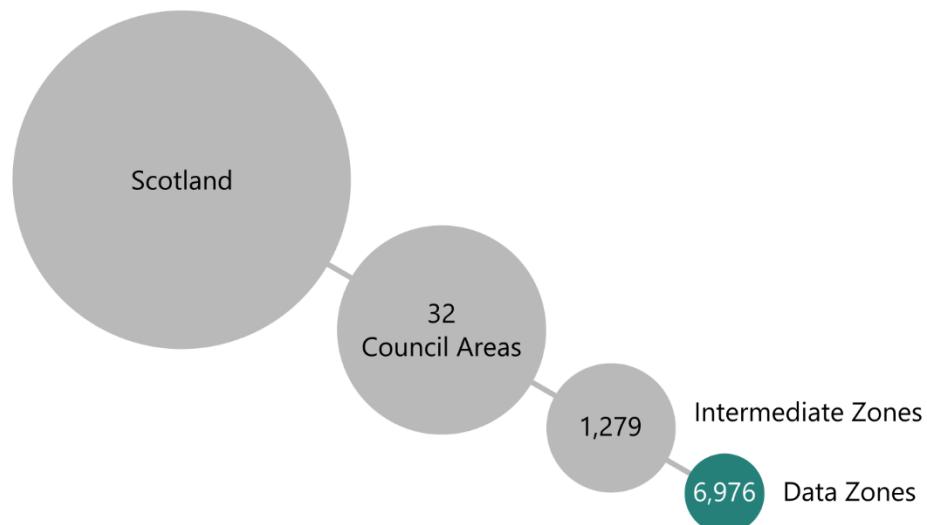
Most data zones contain between 500 and 1,000 people

Data zones are designed to have a population of around 500 to 1,000 household residents. In mid-2019, the average data zone population was 783.

Most data zones change in population over time. This can be for many reasons. For example:

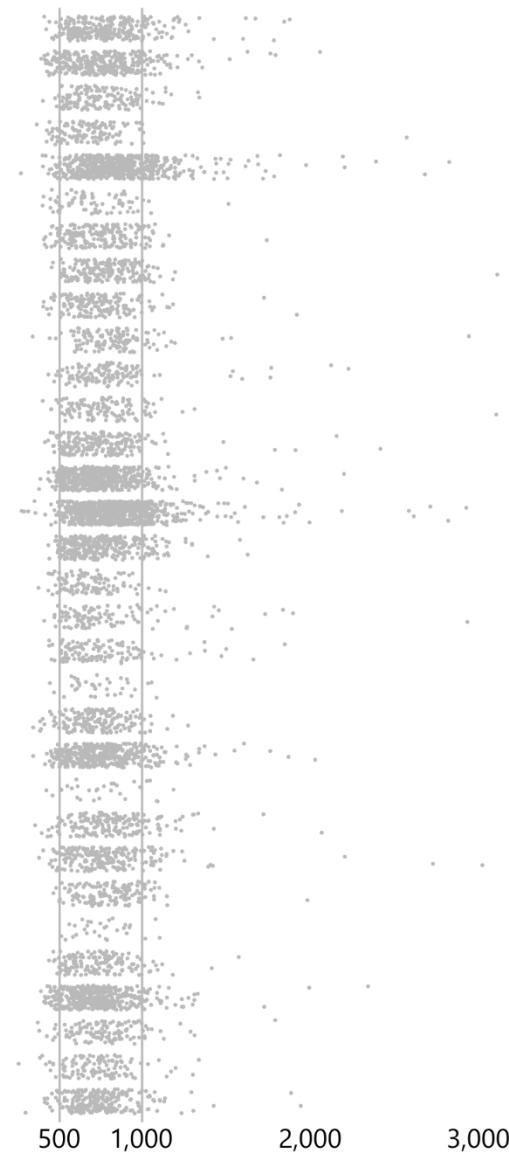
- Births
- Deaths
- Migration
- Larger changes may be due to housing demolitions or new housing development

Find out about the data zone you live in at
[www.nrscotland.gov.uk/
 interactive/small-
 area-population-estimates](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/interactive/small-area-population-estimates)



Population of each data zone, mid-2019

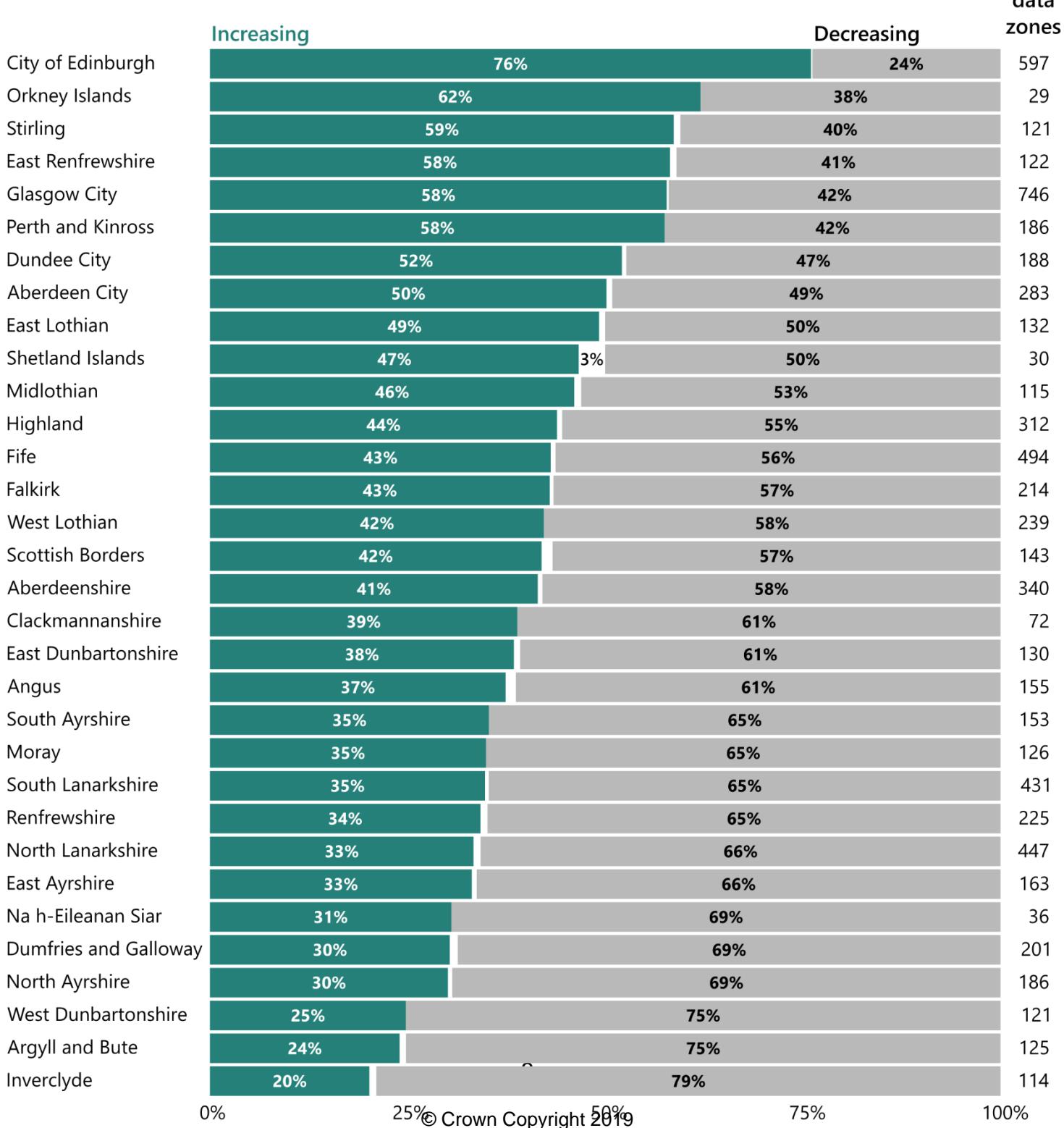
Aberdeen City
 Aberdeenshire
 Angus
 Argyll and Bute
 City of Edinburgh
 Clackmannanshire
 Dumfries and Galloway
 Dundee City
 East Ayrshire
 East Dunbartonshire
 East Lothian
 East Renfrewshire
 Falkirk
 Fife
 Glasgow City
 Highland
 Inverclyde
 Midlothian
 Moray
 Na h-Eileanan Siar
 North Ayrshire
 North Lanarkshire
 Orkney Islands
 Perth and Kinross
 Renfrewshire
 Scottish Borders
 Shetland Islands
 South Ayrshire
 South Lanarkshire
 Stirling
 West Dunbartonshire
 West Lothian



Every council area has pockets of population growth and depopulation

In the last decade, mainly rural councils, as well as those in the West of Scotland have seen a higher proportion of their areas decrease in population. In contrast, the cities have seen more areas increase in population.

Percentage of data zones that increased, stayed the same (in white), or decreased population by council area mid-2009 to mid-2019



0%

25% © Crown Copyright 2019

75%

100%

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Key Findings

- As at mid-2019, the average data zone population in Scotland was 783 people. Data zones are a small area geography that cover the whole of Scotland and can be used to understand the population of local communities. Find out more about the data zone you live in at:
<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/interactive/small-area-population-estimates>
- Every council area across Scotland had pockets of population growth and depopulation (see [Figure 4](#)).
- The age structure of the population across Scotland continues to vary. Overall the median age (that's the age at which half the population is younger and half older) was 42 years, however this can vary widely. For example:
 - The data zone with the lowest median age (20 years) was *Ruchill – 04* in Glasgow City, which contains student accommodation for Glasgow University.
 - The data zone with the highest median age (72 years) was *Falkirk – Town Centre and Callendar Park*, which contains a number of developments aimed at older residents.
- Over the last decade (between mid-2009 and mid-2019), more than half of the small areas in every council increased in median age, reflecting the overall ageing of Scotland's population (see [Figure 5](#)). In Na h-Eileanan Siar, 94% of data zones (34 areas) became older in terms of median age. In contrast, 44% of data zones (82 areas) in Dundee City became younger in terms of median age.
- The majority of Scotland's population (71%) live in large urban and other urban areas (settlements of 10,000 or more people).
- Inverclyde had the highest percentage of population (30%) living in the 10% most deprived areas in Scotland whereas East Renfrewshire had the highest percentage of population (38%) living in the 10% least deprived areas (based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020).

Do these statistics take into account the effect of COVID-19 on our population?

These statistics relate to the population as at 30 June 2019 and do not take into account recent change since then. However, we know that older people are more at risk of becoming seriously ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) so these statistics can be used to understand the number of older people and where in Scotland they live. See [section 4](#) for more details.

1. Introduction

This report summarises the mid-2019 Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE) for Scotland, which relate to the population as at 30 June 2019. The estimates are fully consistent with the headline mid-2019 population estimates published for higher level geographies at council area, health board area and Scotland.

Small area population estimates are published using 2011 Data Zone boundaries.

What are data zones?

- Data zones are the Scottish Government's small area statistical geography.
- Scotland is made up of **6,976** data zones, which nest within council area boundaries.
- Population estimates for other geographies (e.g. Parliamentary Constituencies) are approximated by summing the populations of their constituent data zones.
- Data zone boundaries are reviewed every ten years, based on populations from the Census, and are designed to have populations of **500 – 1,000** people.

Small area population estimates (SAPE) provide important information at neighbourhood level and can be used as building blocks to provide estimates for a variety of different geographies, including:

- Scottish and UK Parliamentary Constituencies
- Electoral wards
- Urban rural areas (based on the Urban Rural Classification)
- Deprived areas (based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation)
- Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) areas

SAPE have a wide range of users including central and local government and are used to inform planning, provision of services and allocation of resources at local level. The estimates are also important in a number of other applications such as the development and maintenance of the Scottish Government's [Urban Rural Classification](#) and the [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) (SIMD).

Information about the methodology and data sources for producing the small area population estimates, as well as the strengths and limitations, can be found in the [methodology guide](#) on the NRS website.

What are you looking for?	Where is it?
Population estimates by data zone, 2019	Excel tables
Time series of data zone population estimates	Time series
Population estimates for other geographies	Excel tables
Open data	statistics.gov.scot
Find out about the population of the data zone you live in	Interactive data visualisation

2. Latest population estimates, 2019

On 30 June 2019, the population of Scotland was 5,463,300. The population of the 6,976 data zones across Scotland ranged from 0 to 3,784 people, however most data zones (5,787) had a population of between 500 and 999 people.

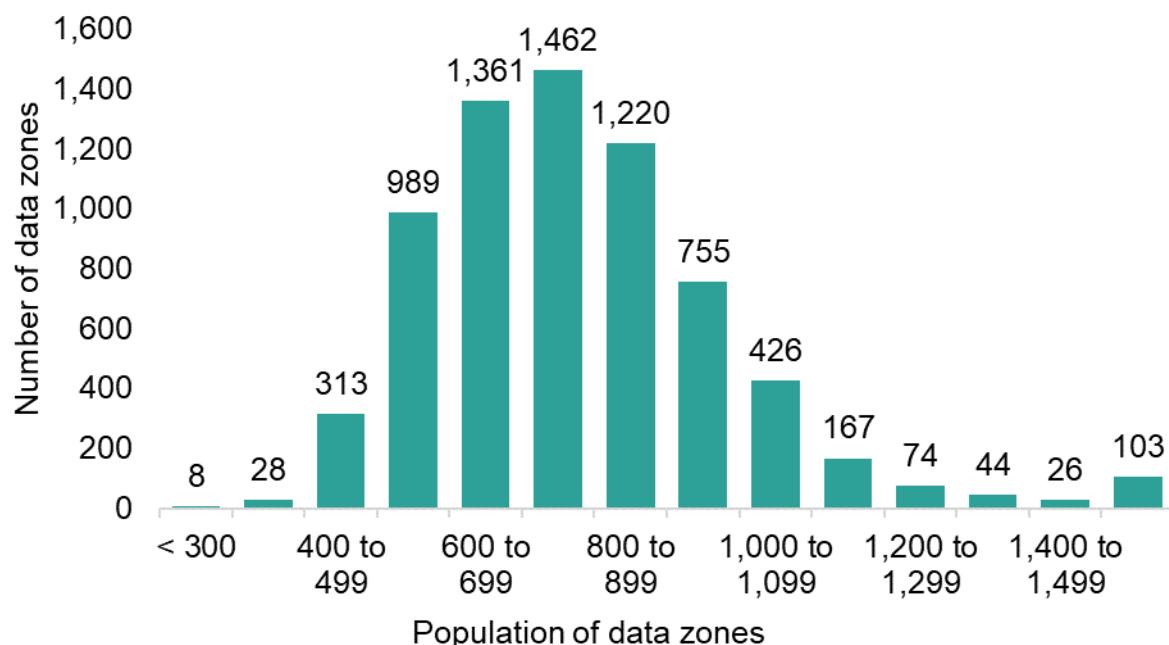
The current data zone boundaries were designed to have a population of 500 to 1,000 people based on populations from the 2011 Census. Over time the population of many data zones have exceeded or fallen below these thresholds. Large increases over time are often due to new housing developments being built and conversely it is often due to demolitions that a data zone may experience significant depopulation. [Figure 1](#) shows the mid-2019 distribution of data zone populations.

In mid-2019, 349 data zones had a population of less than 500 people, while 840 data zones had a population of 1,000 or more people. Some data zones had very large populations which resulted in the average¹ data zone population of 783 people being greater than the median² figure of 754 people.

¹ Throughout this document the term average is used to refer to the mean, which is defined as the sum of a set of values divided by the total number of values.

² The median is the midpoint of a group of values which have been arranged in ascending or descending order. 50% of the values will be less than or equal to the median, the remainder will be greater than or equal to the median.

Figure 1: Distribution of data zone populations, mid-2019



Overview of data zone populations

There were 349 data zones across Scotland with a population of less than 500 people in mid-2019, with no council area having a particularly large number of data zones in this category. South Lanarkshire had the highest with 35 data zones containing less than 500 people, followed by Aberdeenshire with 30 data zones. Shetland Islands was the only council area which had no data zones with a population of less than 500. An overview of the number of data zones in each council and how their populations vary is shown in [Table 1](#).

Did you know?

- The data zone with the highest population (3,784 people) was *Currie West – 01* in the City of Edinburgh, which contains student accommodation for Heriot-Watt University.
- There are three data zones with a population of zero, these are in Glasgow City. Major demolitions in these areas have caused the depopulation.

The vast majority of data zones (83%) had a population of greater than 500 and less than 1,000 people, which is the range data zones were originally designed to have. A further 11% had between 1,000 and 1,499 people. These population ranges account

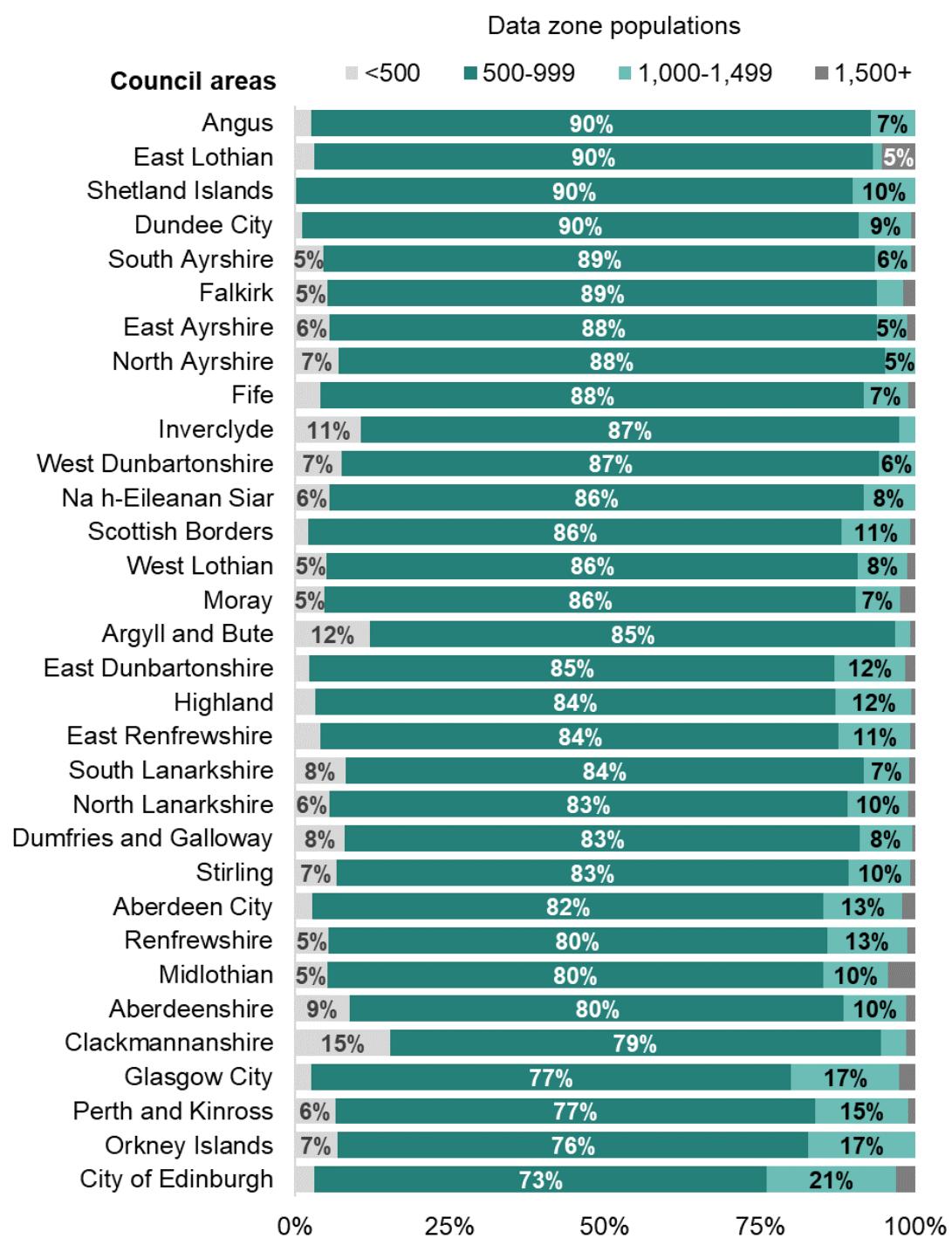
for nearly all data zones but as mentioned above there are some extreme outliers such as the three empty data zones in Glasgow (due to demolition of housing).

In mid-2019, there were 103 data zones with a population of 1,500 people or more across Scotland. Glasgow City and City of Edinburgh had the highest number of data zones in this category with 19 and 18 respectively. Almost 80% of Scotland's council areas (25 out of 32) had at least one data zone with a population of 1,500 people or more. Percentage breakdowns of data zones by population in each council area are displayed in [Figure 2](#).

Table 1: Data zone populations by council area, mid-2019

Council area	Number of data zones	Total Population	Minimum population	Maximum population	Mean population	Median population	Upper quartile	Lower quartile
Aberdeen City	283	228,670	407	1,895	808	781	915	646
Aberdeenshire	340	261,210	388	2,079	768	753	881	601
Angus	155	116,200	399	1,347	750	725	864	615
Argyll and Bute	125	85,870	362	2,604	687	672	765	561
City of Edinburgh	597	524,930	266	3,784	879	841	992	706
Clackmannanshire	72	51,540	397	1,524	716	699	865	574
Dumfries and Galloway	201	148,860	405	1,756	741	735	867	596
Dundee City	188	149,320	452	3,153	794	784	893	666
East Ayrshire	163	122,010	401	1,938	749	732	846	625
East Dunbartonshire	130	108,640	337	2,981	836	839	906	686
East Lothian	132	107,090	432	2,251	811	776	883	660
East Renfrewshire	122	95,530	398	3,147	783	766	885	623
Falkirk	214	160,890	412	2,445	752	720	852	589
Fife	494	373,550	376	2,224	756	736	846	611
Glasgow City	746	633,120	0	2,965	849	812	957	683
Highland	312	235,830	432	1,640	756	720	865	608
Inverclyde	114	77,800	372	1,143	682	666	770	573
Midlothian	115	92,460	407	2,972	804	698	879	611
Moray	126	95,820	437	1,865	760	710	873	588
Na h-Eileanan Siar	36	26,720	441	1,088	742	716	871	610
North Ayrshire	186	134,740	340	1,279	724	710	820	614
North Lanarkshire	447	341,370	340	2,049	764	730	867	629
Orkney Islands	29	22,270	420	1,191	768	741	898	607
Perth and Kinross	186	151,950	352	2,089	817	795	945	662
Renfrewshire	225	179,100	376	3,063	796	752	881	657
Scottish Borders	143	115,510	463	2,002	808	801	919	688
Shetland Islands	30	22,920	511	1,107	764	760	880	655
South Ayrshire	153	112,610	436	1,586	736	723	837	592
South Lanarkshire	431	320,530	387	3,441	744	717	823	610
Stirling	121	94,210	368	1,807	779	762	876	652
West Dunbartonshire	121	88,930	252	1,344	735	739	830	625
West Lothian	239	183,100	294	3,459	766	729	830	632
Scotland	6,976	5,463,300	0	3,784	783	754	886	633

Figure 2: Percentage of data zones in population ranges by council area



When analysed by the Scottish Government's [6-fold Urban Rural Classification](#), the number of data zones with a population of fewer than 500 are mostly in other urban and large urban areas (refer to [Background notes](#) for definition of these), largely because these areas are where most data zones are located.

The vast majority of data zones with populations of 1,500 or higher are also located in large urban or other urban areas. Data zones with large populations often contain new housing developments which have led to an increase in the local population. The presence of large communal establishments such as armed forces bases, prisons and student accommodation can also contribute to high data zone populations. For example the most populated data zone, *Currie West – 01* in Edinburgh, contains a number of student halls of residence for Heriot-Watt University.

How do data zone populations vary across Scotland?

In mid-2019, the average data zone population was 783 people. Across council areas in Scotland, the average data zone populations were:

- Highest in City of Edinburgh (879), Glasgow City (849) and East Dunbartonshire (836).
- Lowest in Inverclyde (682), Argyll and Bute (687) and Clackmannanshire (716).

With the exception of East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire, the median data zone population was lower than the average population. This suggests that most council areas have a number of data zones with large populations that inflate the average population but have little or no effect on the median data zone population.

[Table 1](#) shows the distribution of data zone populations across Scotland's council areas. The lower quartile indicates the population that 25% of data zones lie below. For example, 25% of data zones in Aberdeen City have a population of 646 people or less. Similarly, the upper quartile indicates the population that 25% of data zones lie above.

3. Population change over time, 2009-2019

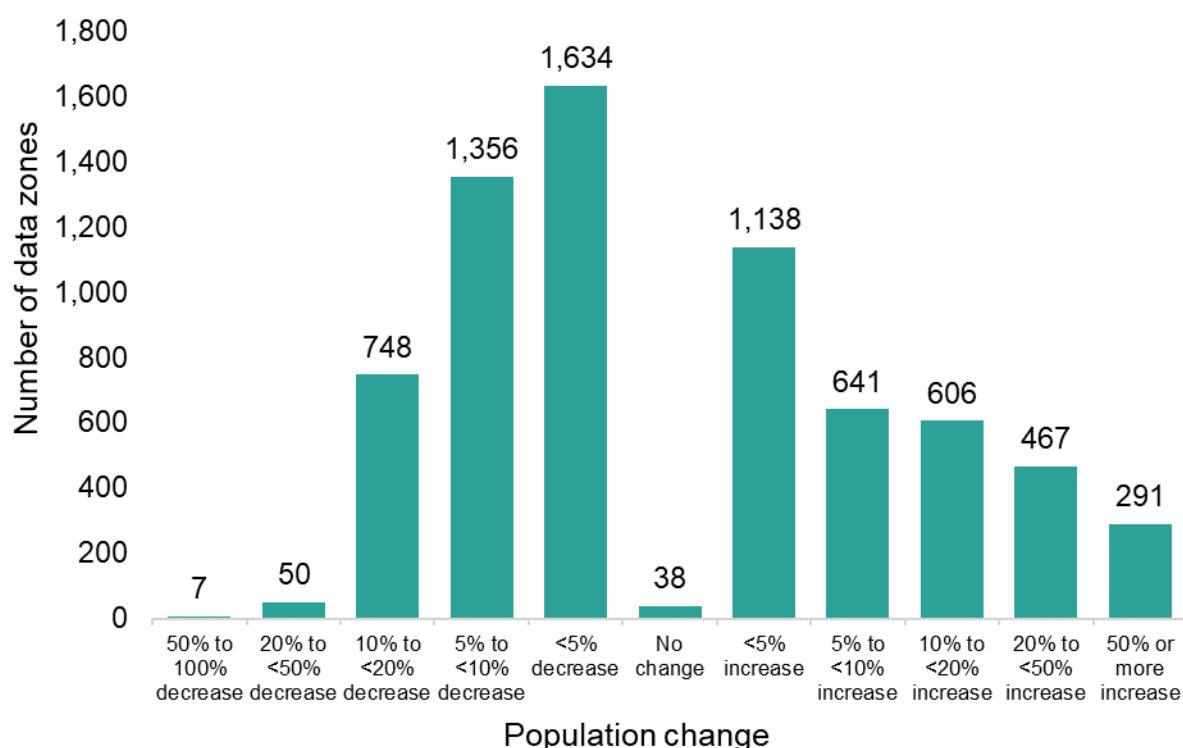
How has the population changed across data zones in Scotland?

Between mid-2009 and mid-2019, the population of Scotland increased by 231,400 people (4.4%) from 5,231,900 to 5,463,300. The average data zone population increased from 750 to 783 over the same period, reflecting the overall increase in population.

Although the population of Scotland increased between mid-2009 and mid-2019, more data zones decreased in population than increased, shown in [Figure 3](#). Over this period, the population of 3,795 data zones (54.4%) decreased while 3,180 data zones (45.6%) increased or had no change to the population.

Over the last decade, there were more large population increases of 20% or more (758 data zones) than population decreases of 20% or more (57 data zones). In contrast, more of the small population changes (less than 20%) were decreases. These small decreases may be related to the declining average household size, with more people living alone or in smaller households¹.

Figure 3: Data zone population change, mid-2009 to mid-2019



1) National Records of Scotland (2019) '[Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland, 2019](#)'

How has the population changed within Scotland's council areas?

Figure 4 shows the proportion of data zones within each council area that have increased in population, decreased or stayed the same between mid-2009 to mid-2019.

Areas with the highest percentage of data zones experiencing **depopulation** are mainly rural and island areas, as well as areas in the West of Scotland.

Over the last decade, areas which have seen a large proportion of data zones decrease in population are mainly rural and island council areas, as well as areas in the west of Scotland. Between mid-2009 and mid-2019, the population decreased in:

- 79% of data zones in Inverclyde
- 75% of data zones in Argyll and Bute
- 75% of data zones in West Dunbartonshire

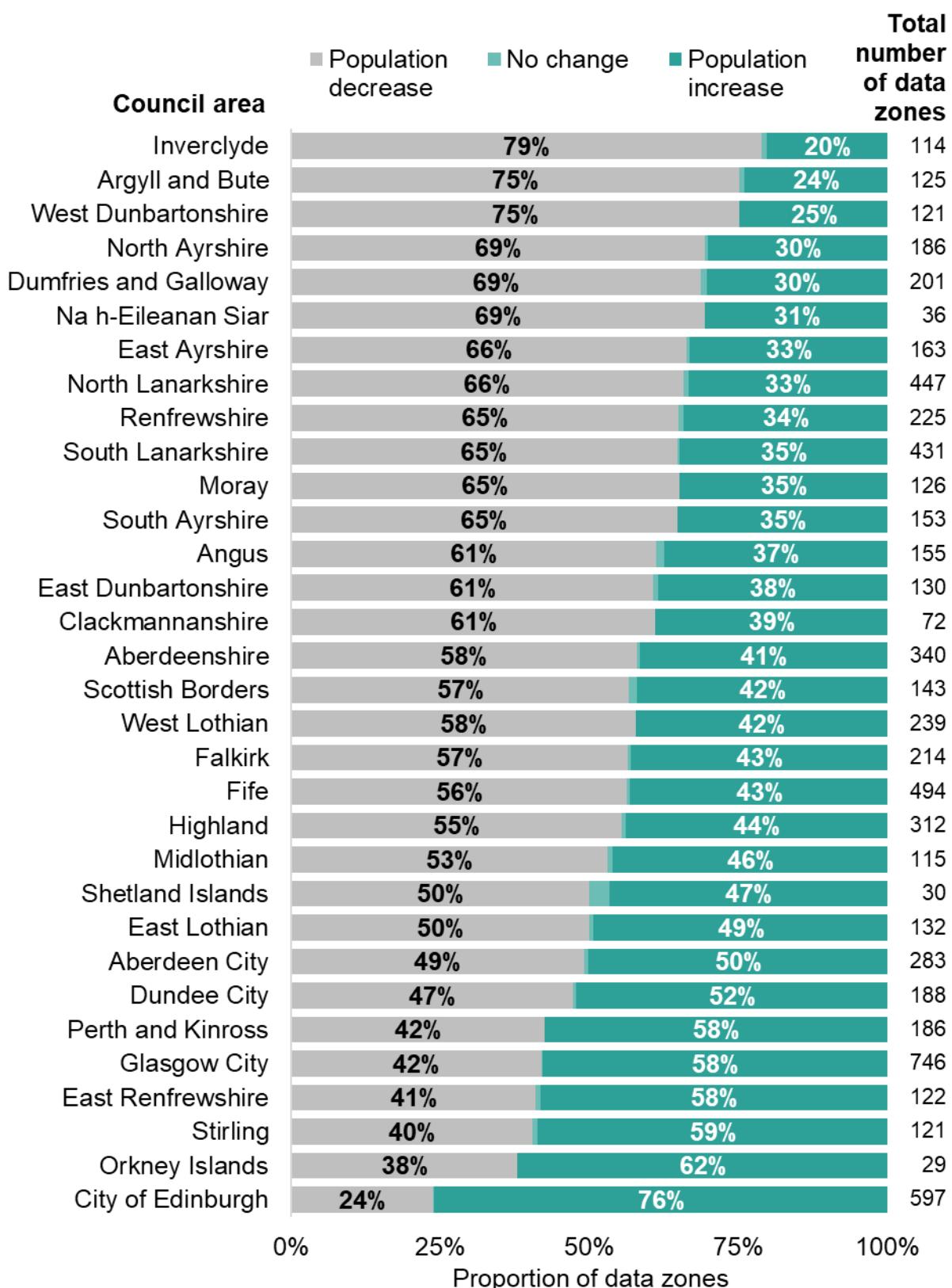
However it is important to remember that the number of data zones in each council area varies. For example, in Na h-Eileanan Siar there are only 36 data zones, compared to Glasgow City which has 746 data zones.

In contrast, three of the five council areas which had the largest proportion of data zones increase in population contained cities. Between mid-2009 and mid-2019, the population increased in:

- 76% of data zones in City of Edinburgh
- 62% of data zones in Orkney Islands
- 59% of data zones in Stirling

Orkney has the second highest percentage of data zones which have increased in population since mid-2009 but it is important to note the small number of data zones (29) and to note this trend is not indicative of a large absolute increase in population.

Figure 4: Percentage of data zones by population change and council area, mid-2009 to mid-2019



4. Age distribution of data zones

Just as the population varies between data zones, age distributions also show significant variation. In mid-2019, the overall median age for Scotland was 42 years, however this varied by data zone:

- The data zone with the lowest median age (20 years) was *Ruchill – 04* in Glasgow City, which contains student accommodation for Glasgow University.
- The data zone with the highest median age (72 years) was *Falkirk – Town Centre and Callendar Park - 02*, which contains a number of developments aimed at older residents.

The median age for females in Scotland was 43 years, with medians across data zones ranging from 20 to 74 years. These figures are higher than the equivalents for males, where the overall median age was 41 years, with a range of medians across data zones of 18 to 72 years. This data fits with the current life expectancy data for Scotland which shows females have a slightly higher life expectancy on average.

The youngest and oldest data zones in mid-2019

- **10** data zones had a median age of **22 years** or younger. All of which were in the immediate vicinity of a university and most contained student halls or residence.
- **10** data zones had a median age of **64 years** or over. These were largely in popular retirement areas or places with designated accommodation for the elderly.

Over the last decade, some data zones have seen significant changes in the median age of the population. The data zone of *Uphall, Dalmarnock and Ecclesmachan – 03* had the largest increase in median age by almost 20 years from 29 to 48 years. Since mid-2009, the proportion of people in younger age groups living in this data zone has decreased, with a decrease of 62% (98 fewer people) of those aged 16 to 24.

Between mid-2009 and mid-2019, *City Centre West – 05* in Glasgow saw the median age fall by 18 years from 53 to 35 years. During this decade, there was a significant renovation of the Glasgow Caledonian University campus which is situated in this area, as well as the opening of new student accommodation.

Council area median age trends

Over the last decade, rural and island areas have aged the most in terms of median age. Conversely some areas are becoming more youthful and these areas tend to be

in cities. This aligns with the general trend of younger people moving from more remote areas to cities for higher education or employment, and older people tending to retire to the countryside and coastal areas.

Between mid-2009 and mid-2019:

- Dundee City has seen the largest percentage of its data zones get younger in terms of median age, with 44% of data zones following this trend.
- The council area with the highest percentage of ageing data zones was Na h-Eileanan Siar, with 94% of data zones seeing an increase in median age.

The breakdown of this data for each council area is displayed in [Figure 5](#). It should be noted that while rural areas and the islands have a higher percentage of data zones which have increased in age, they also have far fewer total data zones.

Key points on median age

- One way of measuring population ageing is to look at how the median age is changing (the age at which half the population is younger and half older).
- In Scotland, the average change in median age across all data zones **between mid-2009 and mid-2019** was an increase of **2.3** years.

[Figure 6](#) shows the average change in median age across data zones for all council areas compared with the Scottish average. Every council area, except Dundee City, experienced an increase in average median age of its data zones between mid-2009 and mid-2019, reflecting Scotland's ageing population.

Over the past decade, increases in the average median age of data zones were highest in:

- Na h-Eileanan Siar (+4.1 years)
- Clackmannanshire (+3.9 years)
- Scottish Borders (+3.7 years)

The largest cities (Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen) experienced the slowest population ageing and Dundee City actually experienced a small decline in median age between mid-2009 and mid-2019:

- Glasgow City (+0.4 years)
- City of Edinburgh (+0.6 years)
- Aberdeen City (+0.7 years)
- Dundee City (-0.1 years)

Figure 5: Percentage of data zones by change in median age and council area, mid-2009 to mid-2019

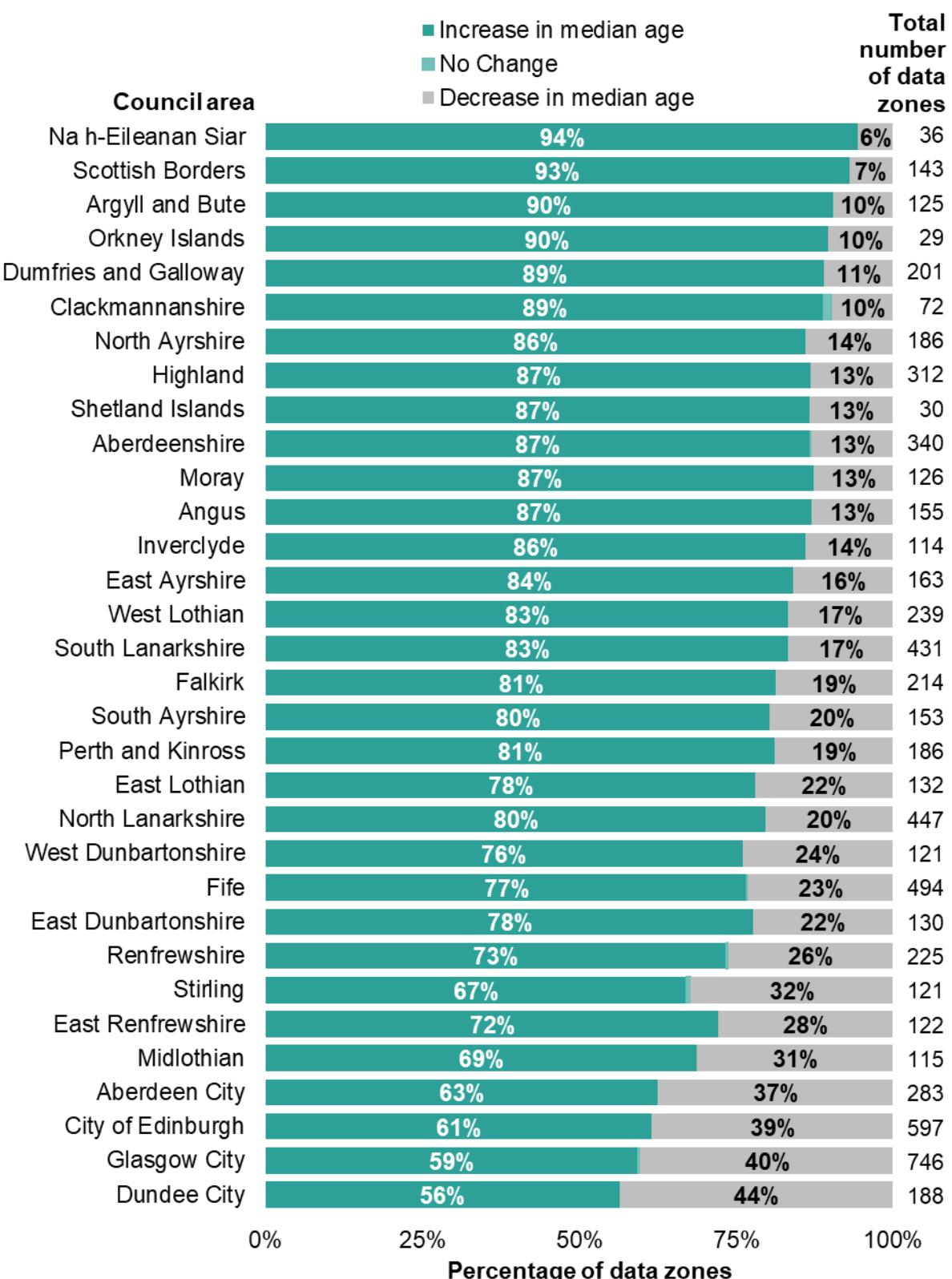
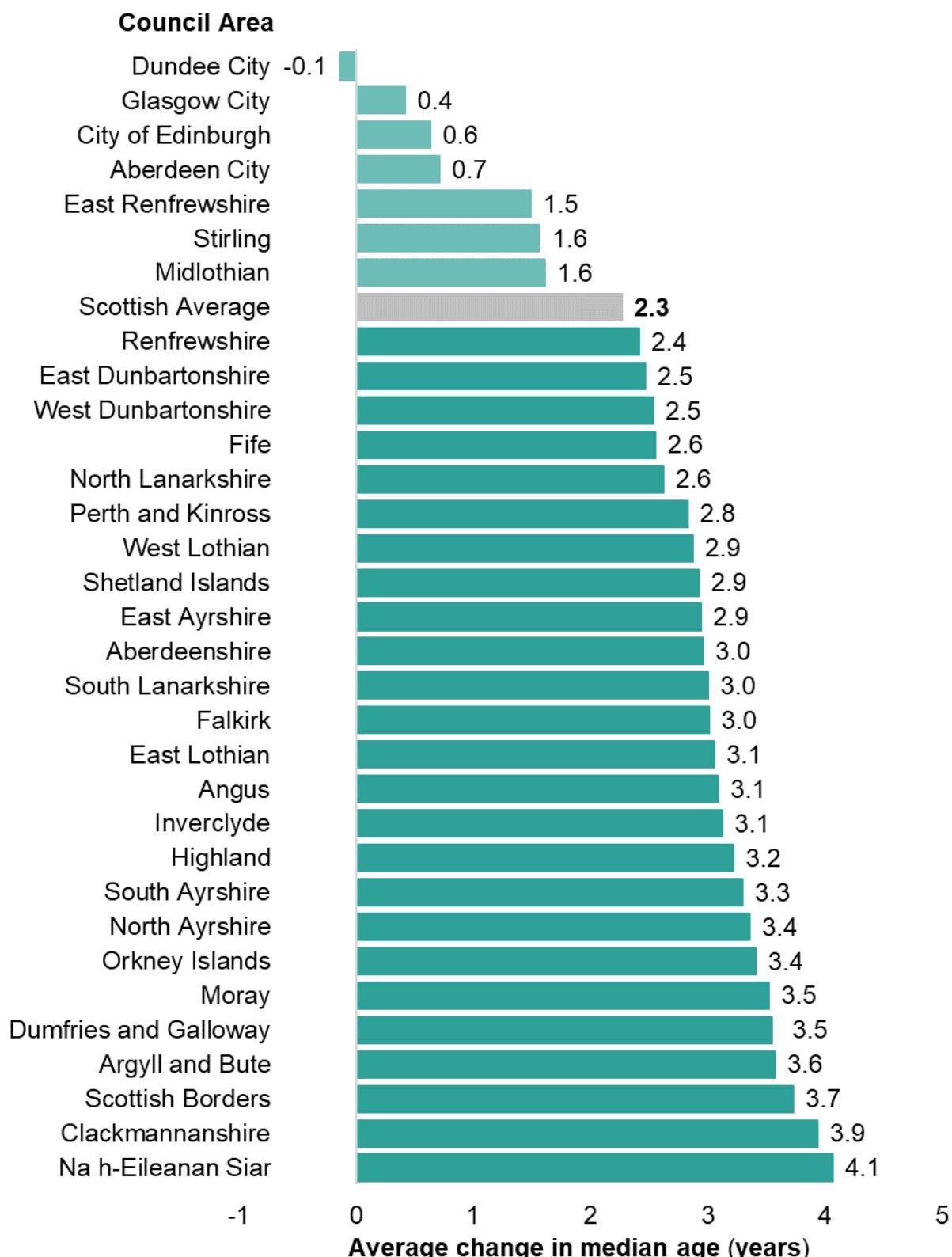


Figure 6: Average change in median age across data zones between mid-2009 and mid-2019, by council area



Data zones with the oldest populations

Another way to look at population ageing is to consider the population aged 65 years and over. The population aged 65 and over by data zone is available from [Table A](#) on the NRS website.

In summary, the top 10 data zones when ranked by percentage of population aged 65+ as at mid-2019 are:

- Falkirk - Town Centre and Callendar Park – 02 (S01009150) in Falkirk: **79%**
- Blairgowrie West – 07 (S01011994) in Perth and Kinross: **57%**
- Ayr South Harbour and Town Centre – 07 (S01012486) in South Ayrshire: **54%**
- Earlsferry (S01009701) in Fife: **52%**
- Kessington West – 01 (S01008076) in East Dunbartonshire: **52%**
- Bothwell South – 04 (S01012801) in South Lanarkshire: **51%**
- Monifieth East – 02 (S01007150) in Angus: **50%**
- West Ferry – 04 (S01007752) in Dundee City: **49%**
- Saltcoats North West – 03 (S01011257) in North Ayrshire: **48%**
- Lockerbie – 01 (S01007635) in Dumfries and Galloway: **48%**

As the data in this publication relates to the population of Scotland as of mid-2019, it does not reflect the recent impact of COVID-19. However, population statistics can provide insights into the number of older people and where in Scotland they live. Throughout the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been particular focus on older populations who are at higher risk. You can explore the data in more detail and find out how many older people live in each data zone using the information on the NRS website.

Links to other resources

- [Open data](#) showing the number and percentage of people aged under 16, 70 and over, and 85 and over.
- Maps of Scotland displaying the percentage of people in age groups: [under 16](#), [70 years](#) and over, and [85 years](#) and over.
- Check out our [blog](#) for more information about the range of NRS statistics that are useful for understanding COVID-19.

5. Population estimates for other geographies

Did you know: NRS publish population estimates for a range of other geographies including:

- Electoral Wards
- Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS) – the statistical geography of the EU (Eurostat)
- Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification
- Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) deciles
- Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies (SPC)
- UK Parliamentary Constituencies (UKPC)

Population estimates for other geographies are produced by aggregating the data zone population estimates, using geography area lookup tables which can be downloaded from statistics.gov.scot. More information on how population estimates for other geographies are produced is available in the [background notes](#).

Small area population estimates are summarised below for urban rural areas, SIMD deciles, Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies and UK Parliamentary Constituencies. Population estimates by sex and single year of age for other small areas can be found on the [Special Area Population Estimates](#) section of the NRS website.

Urban Rural populations

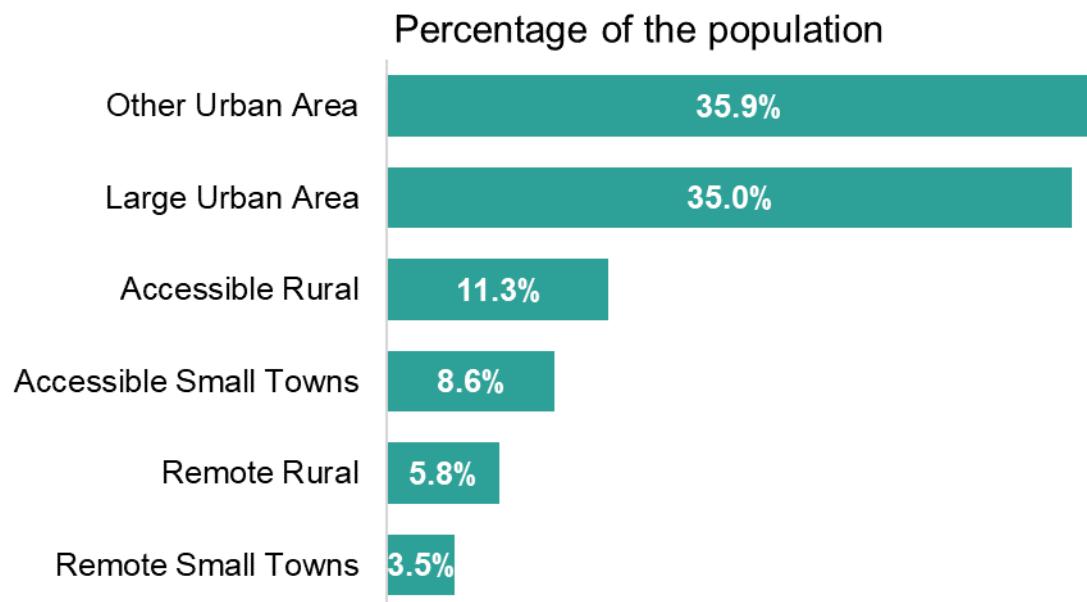
The Scottish Government's Urban Rural Classification defines urban and rural areas across Scotland based on population and accessibility (using drive-time analysis). The main classifications are the 6-fold and 8-fold which distinguish between urban, rural and remote areas in six and eight categories respectively. More information is available on the Scottish Government's [Urban Rural Classification](#) website.

Population estimates by [Urban Rural Classification](#) (6-fold and 8-fold) by single year of age and sex are available from the NRS website for years 2001 to 2019. [Figure 7](#) shows that in mid-2019:

- 71% of Scotland's population (over 3.8 million people) lived in large urban and other urban areas,
- 20% of the population (over 1 million people) lived in accessible small towns and accessible rural areas, and
- 9% of the population (over 500,000 people) lived in remote small towns and remote rural areas.

Most of Scotland's population live in **large and other urban areas**.

Figure 7: Scotland's population by 6-fold Urban Rural Classification¹, mid-2019

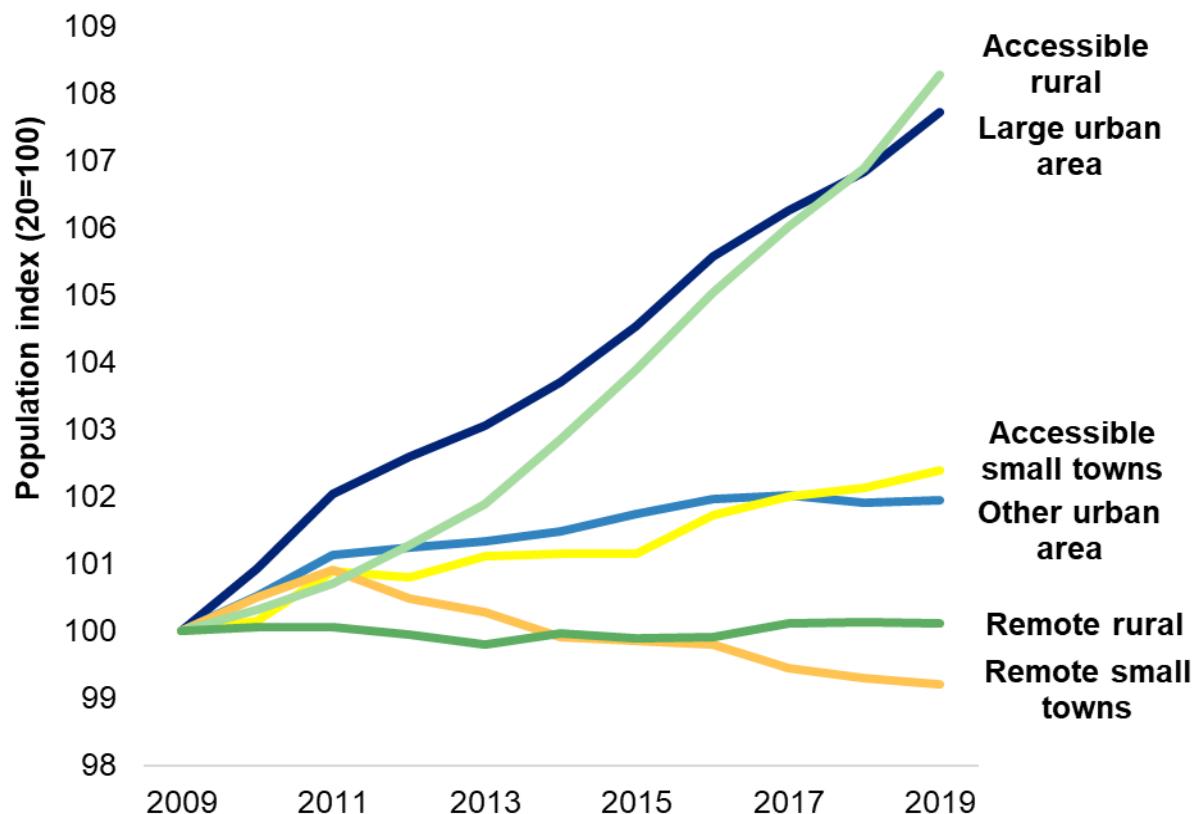


Footnote

1) Based on Scottish Government's Urban Rural Classification 2016.

[Figure 8](#) shows the percentage change in population since mid-2009 by Urban Rural Classification. Between mid-2009 and mid-2019, accessible rural areas saw the largest increase in population (8.3%) followed by large urban areas (7.7%). Meanwhile remote small towns was the only category to experience a decrease in population (-0.8%) between mid-2009 and mid-2019.

Figure 8: Change in population by Urban Rural Classification¹, mid-2009 to mid-2019²



Footnote

1) Based on Scottish Government's Urban Rural Classification 2016.

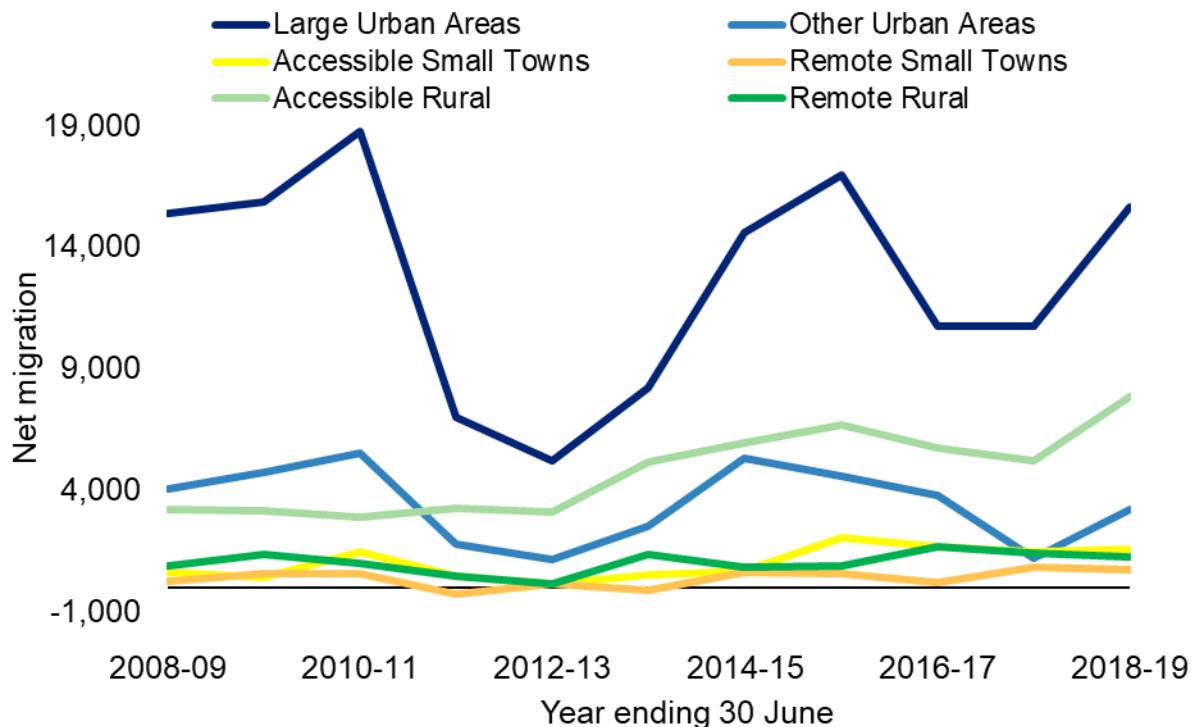
2) Population for each area shown as a percentage of the mid-2009 population.

Net migration was positive for every urban rural category over the latest year to mid-2019 and was highest for large urban areas with 15,620 more people moving into these areas than leaving. [Figure 9](#) shows net migration (moves into areas minus moves out) for urban rural areas over the last ten years.

Since the year ending mid-2009:

- Large urban areas have had the highest net migration every year, with between 5,210 to 18,720 more people moving in than out of these areas.
- Accessible rural areas have seen an overall increase in net migration from 2,900 to 7,850 in the year to mid-2019.
- Remote small towns was the only category to experience negative net migration at points between the years to mid-2009 and mid-2019.

Figure 9: Net migration by 6-fold Urban Rural Classification¹, 2008-09 to 2018-19



Footnote

1) Based on Scottish Government's Urban Rural Classification 2016.

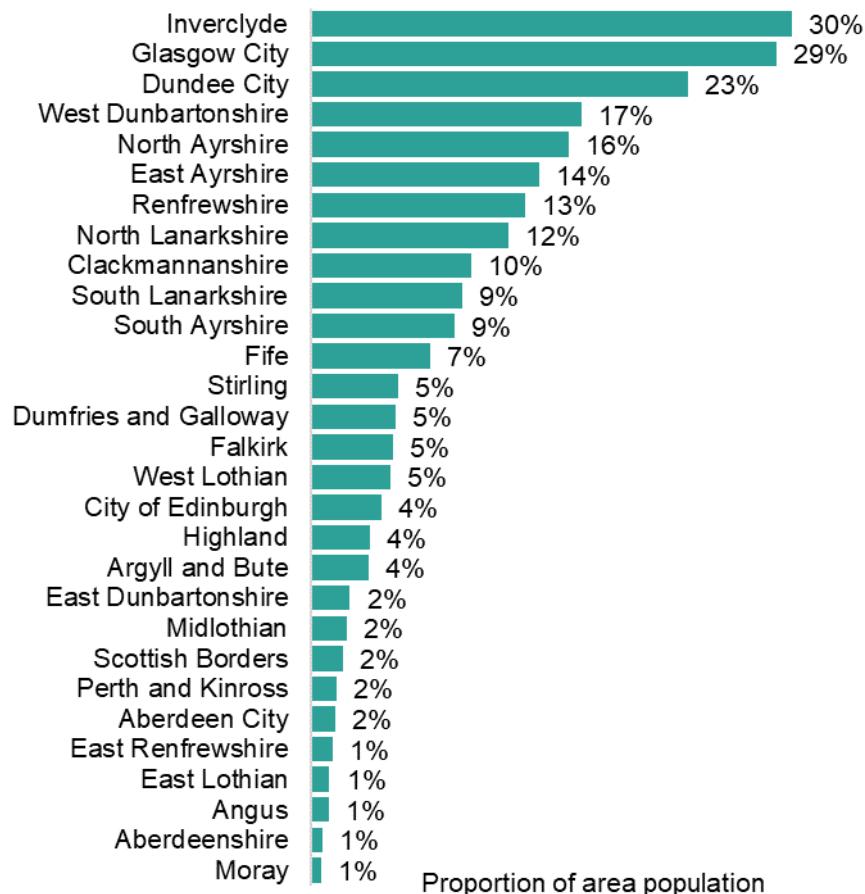
Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) populations

The SIMD is used to identify small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Scotland. SIMD uses multiple measures of deprivation to rank each data zone from 1 (most deprived) to 6,976 (least deprived). The population estimates by SIMD are created by adding up the data zone population estimates in each decile, with each decile containing 10% of Scotland's data zones. SIMD is updated every few years and the population estimates published on the NRS website relate to the SIMD 2020 (version 2 - the latest available). More information is available on the Scottish Government's [SIMD](#) website.

Population estimates for SIMD2020v2 deciles by single year of age and sex are available from the NRS website for years 2001 to 2019.

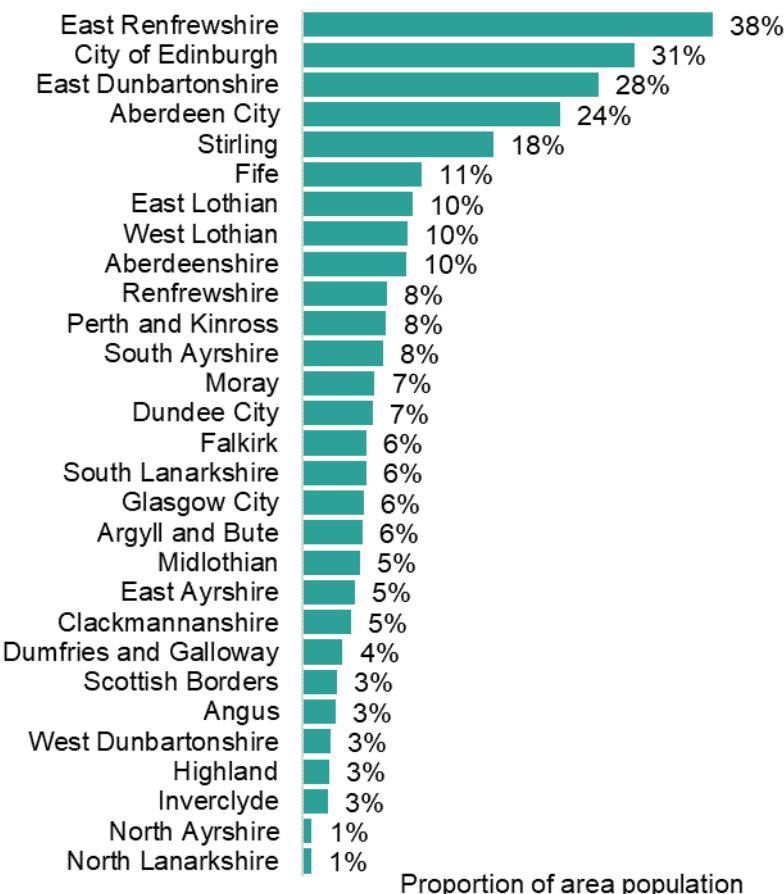
Whilst each SIMD decile contains approximately 10% of Scotland's population, this varies across council areas. [Figure 10](#) shows that Inverclyde has the highest percentage of population (30%) in the most deprived areas (decile 1). In contrast, [Figure 11](#) shows that 3% of Inverclyde's population is in the least deprived areas (decile 10). East Renfrewshire had the highest percentage of population (38%) in the least deprived areas (decile 10), with 1% of the population living in the most deprived areas (decile 1).

Figure 10: Proportion of population in the most deprived decile by council area¹, mid-2019



1) Three council areas have no population in the most deprived SIMD decile (Na h-Eileanan Siar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands).

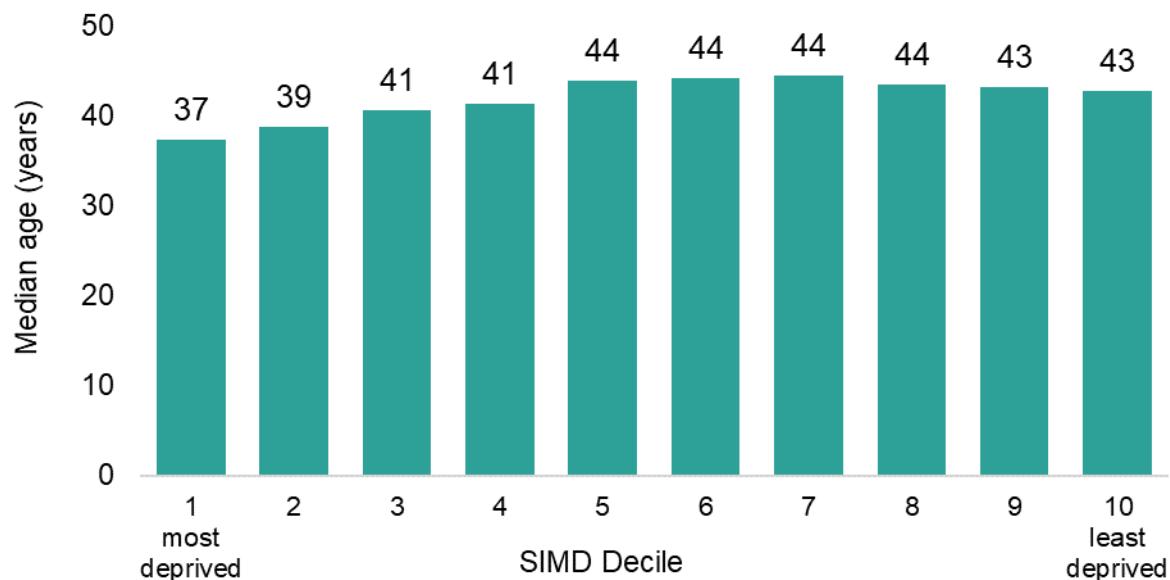
Figure 11: Proportion of population in the least deprived decile by council area¹, mid-2019



1) Three council areas have no population in the least deprived SIMD decile (Na h-Eileanan Siar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands).

In mid-2019, the median age of Scotland's population was 42 years, however the median age by SIMD deciles ranged between 37 and 44 years. [Figure 12](#) shows that the more deprived areas have a younger population, with decile 1 having the youngest median age at 37 years. In contrast, the least deprived areas have higher median ages, with deciles 5 to 8 having the highest median age at 44 years.

Figure 12: Median age by SIMD decile, mid-2019



Scottish Parliamentary Constituency populations

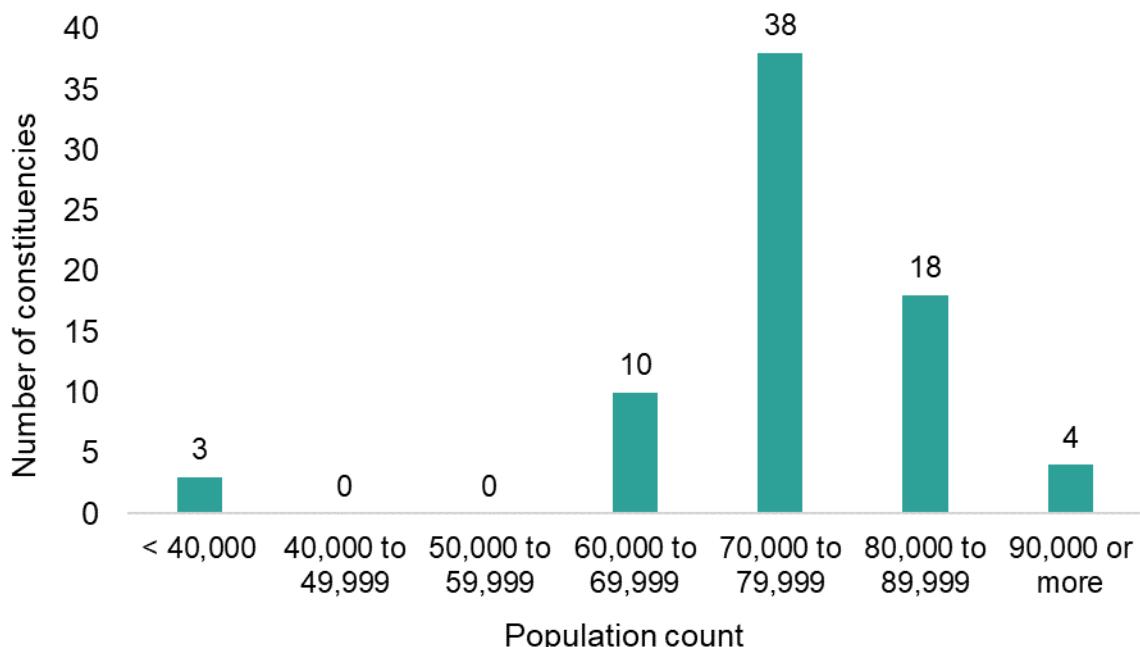
The Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) at Holyrood represent 73 constituencies. The constituency boundaries were re-drawn in 2014, with the population estimates in this section relating to the 2014 boundaries for all years. Population estimates for [Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies](#) by single year of age and sex are available from the NRS website for years mid-2001 to mid-2019.

The constituency population estimates for mid-2019 ranged between 22,270 people (Orkney Islands) to 96,171 people (Linlithgow). [Figure 13](#) shows that the majority of constituencies have a population of greater than 70,000 but less than 80,000 people. The proportion of people aged 16 and over⁴ in each constituency ranged from 79% in Eastwood to 92% in Glasgow Kelvin. The high proportion of people aged 16 and

⁴ People aged 16 and over can vote in Scottish Parliament and Local Government elections in Scotland.

over is likely due to a high student population as the Glasgow Kelvin constituency contains the University of Glasgow.

Figure 13: Population count by Scottish Parliamentary Constituency, mid-2019



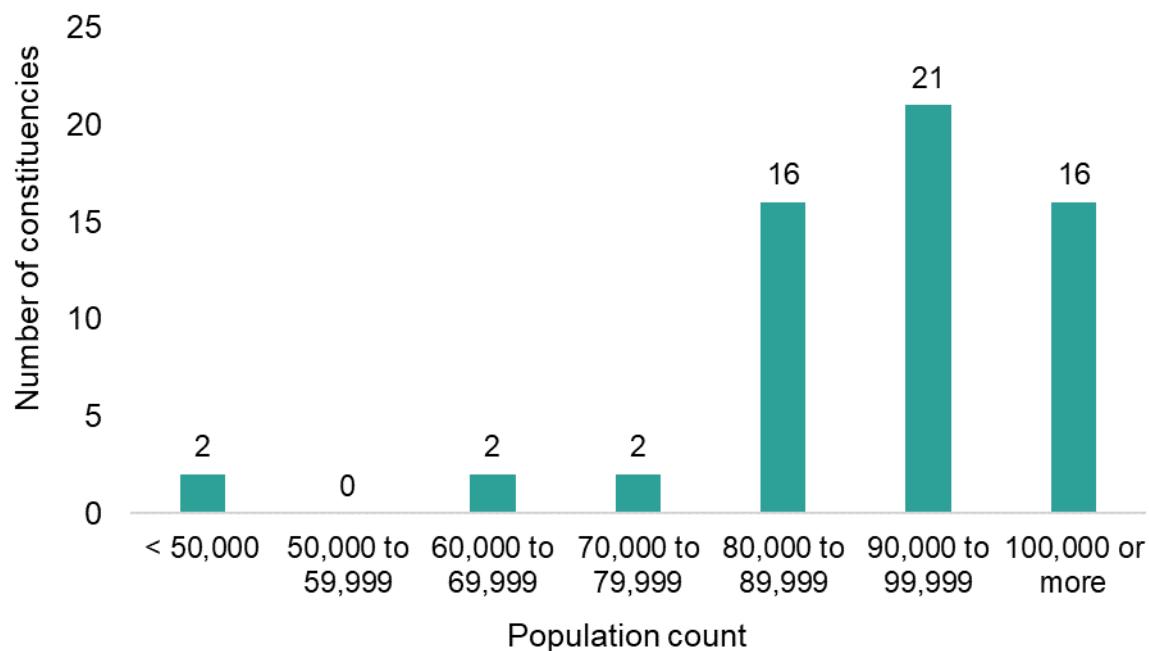
UK Parliamentary Constituency populations

The Members of Parliament (MPs) at Westminster represent 59 Scottish constituencies. The population estimates in this section relate to the boundaries used in the latest general election for all years. Population estimates for [UK Parliamentary Constituencies](#) by single year of age and sex are available from the NRS website for years mid-2001 to mid-2019.

The constituency population estimates for mid-2019 ranged between 26,720 people (Na h-Eileanan an Iar) to 119,672 people (Linlithgow and East Falkirk). [Figure 14](#) shows that the majority of constituencies have a population of greater than 80,000 people. The proportion of people aged 18 and over⁵ in each constituency ranged from 80% in East Renfrewshire to 88% in Glasgow North. The high proportion of people aged 18 and over is likely due to a high student population as the Glasgow North constituency contains the University of Glasgow.

⁵ People aged 18 and over can vote in UK Parliament elections.

Figure 14: Population count by UK Parliamentary Constituency, mid-2019



6. Background Notes

Methodology

The small area population estimates are produced using the demographic cohort component method and are constrained to population estimates for Scottish council areas. More information about the methodology, including the strengths and limitations of the data can be found in the [methodology guide](#) on the NRS website.

On 1 April 2019, a boundary review between Glasgow City and North Lanarkshire council areas came into effect. As a result, eight postcodes were transferred from Glasgow City to North Lanarkshire. Migration estimates at council level were adjusted to include residents of this area in an additional 400 moves from Glasgow City to North Lanarkshire.

Data zone populations can be summed to their associated council level population. For this reason, the additional 400 moves had to be included in the data zone migration estimates. However, data zone boundaries are reviewed every 10 years as part of the census and the boundary of the data zone containing the transferred postcodes was not changed. As a result, the additional 400 moves out of Glasgow City were distributed across all data zones in the council area. The same was applied for in-migration to data zones in North Lanarkshire.

Information about past changes to the population estimates methodology is available in the mid-year population estimates [methodology guide](#).

Strengths and limitations

It is important to have high quality statistics on the latest population. NRS produces detailed annual estimates on the resident population of Scotland using a range of data gathered from statistical censuses and surveys, as well as administrative data. There are processes in place to check the suitability of these sources.

Although the figures are given to unit level, it is not implied that the population estimates are accurate to this level of detail. The figures are not rounded to allow more accurate aggregation of data zones.

Quality assurance takes place throughout the production of population estimates, with checks in place to ensure consistency and completeness. More information on the [quality assurance arrangements for administrative data](#) used in population estimates is available on the NRS website, along with information on the suitability of each data source used in the production of the population estimates.

It is important to consider the **limitations** when using population estimates. The population estimates use the census as the base population. Population change is applied to the base population each year to create the annual population estimates.

Migration is the most difficult part of the population estimates to estimate precisely, as migratory moves are not registered in the UK, either at the national or local level. The best proxy data available on a consistent basis, such as patient registers and surveys, are used to estimate migration. The international migration estimates are based largely on the International Passenger Survey (IPS). However the number of migrant contacts for Scotland is very small and there is a significant degree of uncertainty surrounding these estimates, due to the size of the sample. NRS are part of a cross-government [transformation programme](#), being led by the Office for National Statistics, to improve population and migration statistics through greater use of administrative data sources.

There are no means of verifying the true population between censuses. As a result, any uncertainty in the population estimates will accumulate with time as we move further from the previous census. However, following the next census, the population estimates will be rebased in line with the census population.

Revisions

Revisions and corrections to previously published statistics are dealt with in accordance with the Scottish Government Statistician Group [corporate policy statement](#) on revisions and corrections.

Population estimates for other geographies

Data zones do not always fit the boundaries of other geographies exactly. In the case where a data zone boundary crosses that of another geography, it is allocated to the area that contains the population-weighted centroid of the data zone. An [evaluation of non-standard geography population estimates](#) was carried out to assess population estimates built up from data zones and showed this method gave good results for certain higher-level geographies.

Scottish and UK Parliamentary Constituencies

Population estimates for Scottish and UK Parliamentary Constituencies were derived by aggregating data zone population estimates. However, data zones do not always fit the constituency boundaries exactly and those that cross a boundary are allocated to the constituency that contains the population-weighted centroid of a data zones.

For Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies, an adjustment has been made to the population of both data zones whereby 3.4% of the population of Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn is transferred from Glasgow Kelvin to Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn each year.

For UK Parliamentary Constituencies, an adjustment has been made to the population of both data zones whereby 2.3% of the population of Glasgow North West is transferred from Glasgow North to Glasgow North West each year.

For both Scottish and UK Parliamentary Constituencies, the adjustments are spread equally across the age/sex distribution. More information of the adjustment method can be found in [The Evaluation of Non Standard Geography Population Estimates](#) report.

Definitions

- **Best-fit:** Aggregating data zones to a higher-level geography does not always give an exact match. In these cases, data zones are allocated on a ‘best-fit’ basis to give the best possible match. The paper '[Evaluation of Non Standard Geography Population Estimates](#)' on the NRS website assesses the accuracy of population estimates built up from data zones.
- **Decile:** A decile splits a group of values which have been arranged in ascending or descending order into ten equal groups. For example, the first decile has the first ten per cent of the values.
- **Population-weighted centroid:** This identifies the centre of a data zone by taking into account the size and location of the population, as well as the physical characteristics of the data zone.

7. Links to related statistics

Population estimates for various other geographies are available on the NRS website. This includes:

- Population estimates for [Scotland](#) and its constituent NHS Board and council areas.
- Population estimates for [other special areas](#) within Scotland including Parliamentary Constituencies, Electoral Wards, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation deciles, Urban Rural Classification and Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics.
- Population estimates of [settlements and localities](#) within Scotland (latest available relates to mid-2016).

Data zones are unique to Scotland and cannot be compared directly with small area geographies used in other countries. However, more information on small area population estimates for other parts of the UK are available from:

- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publish [small area population estimates](#) at Lower and Middle Super Output Areas for England and Wales.
- The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) publish [small area population estimates](#) for Super Output Areas in Northern Ireland.

How to find data

Where is it?	What are you looking for?
Tables and figures	The data used in this publication in Excel and CSV format
Times series data	Time series of small area population estimates, 2001 to 2019
Excel tables	Population estimates for other geographies
Open data	The mid-2019 population estimates will be available as open data within one month of publishing
Interactive data visualisation	Select and compare population estimates for Scotland and its council areas

8. Notes on statistical publications

National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in line with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (available on the [UKSA website](#)).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is National Records of Scotland's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Information on background and source data

Further details on data source(s), timeframe of data and timeliness, continuity of data, accuracy, etc can be found in the About this Publication document that is published alongside this publication on the NRS website.

National Records of Scotland

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Preserving the past – We look after Scotland's national archives so that they are available for current and future generations, and we make available important information for family history.

Recording the present – At our network of local offices, we register births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces and adoptions in Scotland.

Informing the future – We are responsible for the Census of Population in Scotland which we use, with other sources of information, to produce statistics on the population and households.

You can get other detailed statistics that we have produced from the [Statistics](#) section of our website. Scottish Census statistics are available on the [Scotland's Census](#) website.

We also provide information about [future publications](#) on our website. If you would like us to tell you about future statistical publications, you can register your interest on the Scottish Government [ScotStat website](#).

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Enquiries and suggestions

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