

# International Territorial Level (ITL) Population Estimates

## Background

The International Territorial Level (ITL) geography replaces the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) which was used to provide a single uniform breakdown of territorial units for the production of regional statistics for the European Union (EU).

As of 1 January 2021, following the UK leaving the EU and the European Statistical System, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has developed a domestic statistical classification framework for the UK: International Territorial Levels. This has replaced the NUTS geographies for the UK that were operational when the UK was a member of the European Union. This geographic system allows continued alignment with international standards in line with the Government Statistical Service's international strategy.

More information is available on the [ONS website](#).

## Geography

There are three levels of ITL geography. In the UK there are currently 12 ITL level 1 areas (Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the 9 statistical regions in England), 41 ITL level 2 areas, and 179 ITL level 3 areas. Within ITL 3 areas there are smaller "local administrative units" (LAUs) known as LAU 1

In Scotland there are 5 ITL level 2 areas (Eastern Scotland, Highlands and Islands, North Eastern Scotland, Southern Scotland, and West Central Scotland); 23 ITL level 3 areas; and 41 LAU 1 areas.

## Population

NRS publishes population estimates for Scotland's ITL level 2, level 3, and LAU 1 areas. These population estimates are based on 2011 Data Zone population estimates where each data zone has been assigned to a particular ITL area. Data zones do not fit exactly into ITL boundaries and are allocated on a 'best fit' basis.

Where a data zone crosses a boundary of two (or more) ITL areas it was assigned to the ITL area containing the population-weighted centroid of the data zone. Because data zones are used as the 'building blocks', the ITL population estimates will be consistent with the mid-year population estimates for local authority areas.