

Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2016-based)



Published on 28 March 2018

This statistical report presents the results for the 2016-based Population Projections for Scottish Areas, including council areas, NHS boards, national parks and strategic development planning authorities.

These projections are consistent with the National Population Projections (published on 26 October 2017).

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 - an increase of 3% over the 10 year period.

Number of people

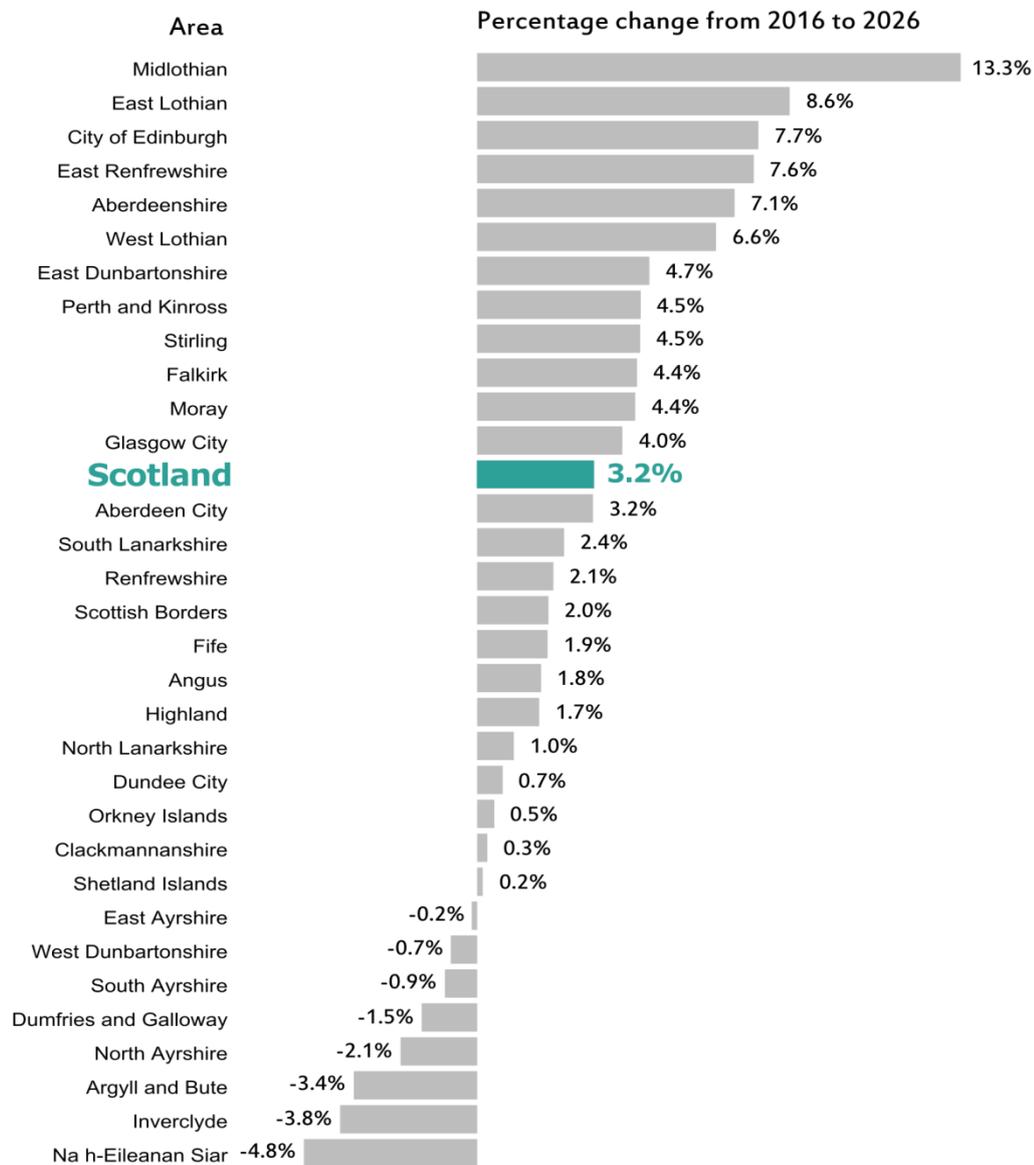
5.40m
in 2016

5.58m
in 2026



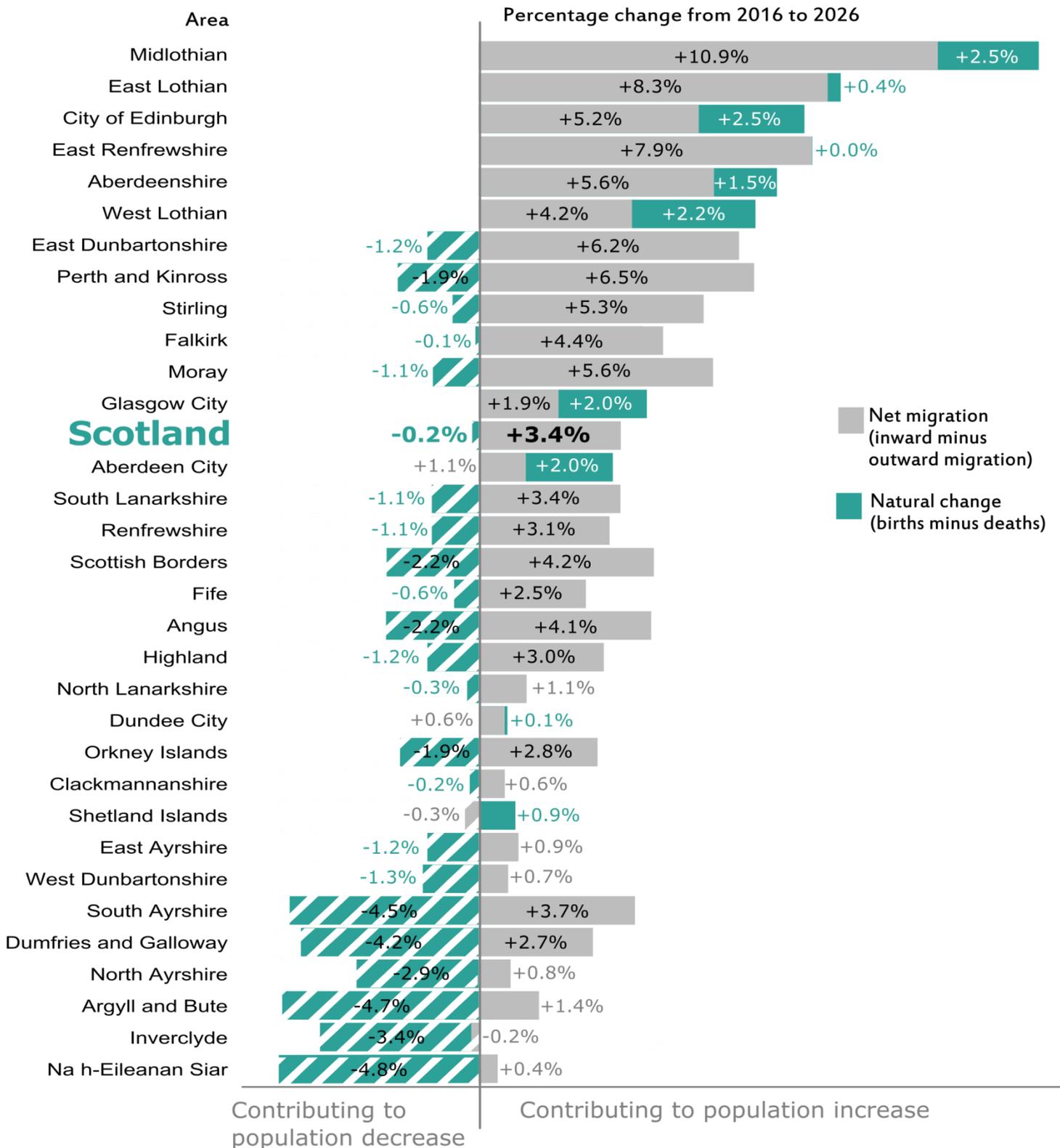
The level of population change varies across Scotland's council areas

Most council areas are projected to increase in population over the next 10 years. However, a quarter of councils are projected to experience a population decrease over this period.



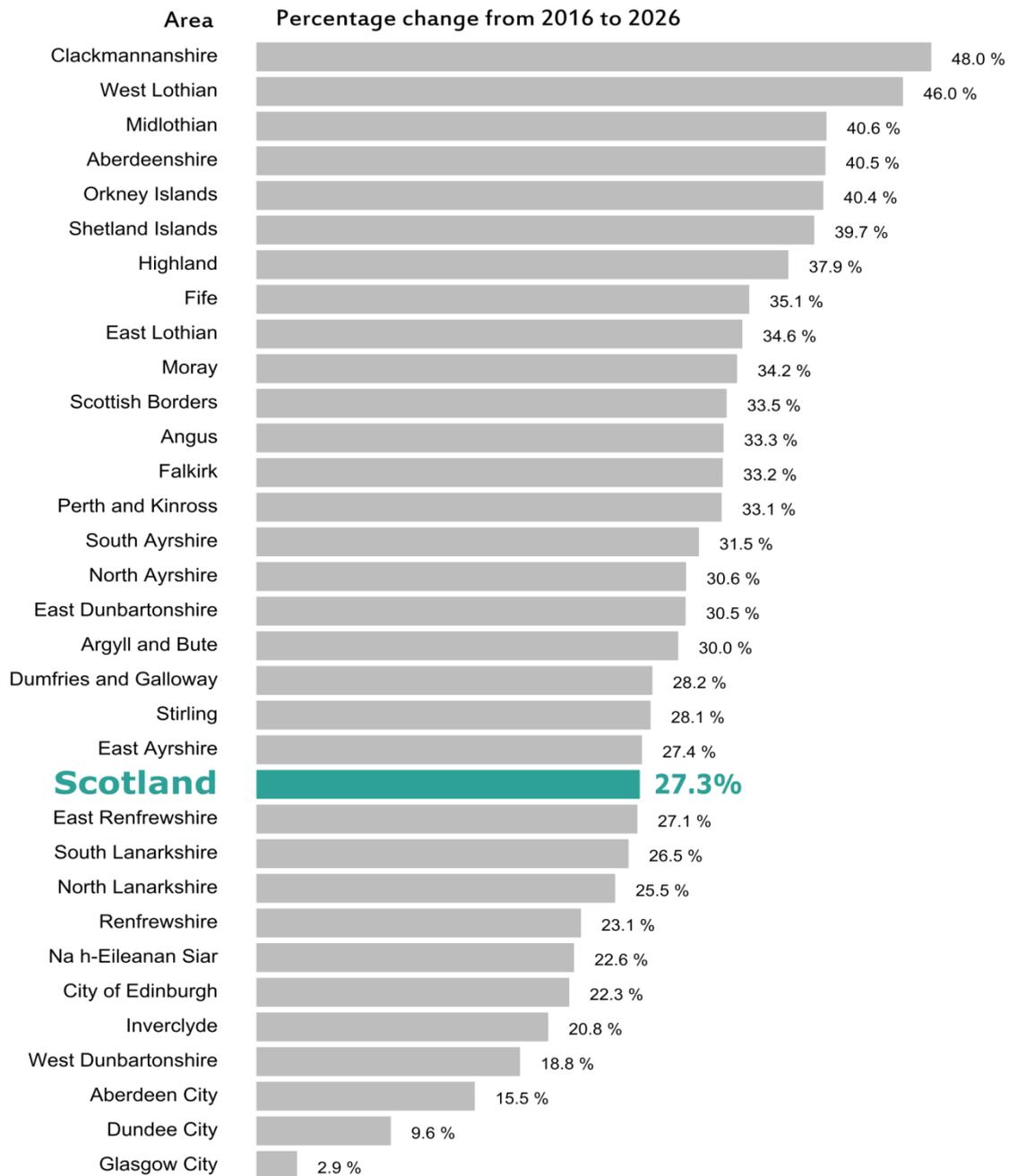
Migration is driving projected increases in population in most areas

All councils except Inverclyde and Shetland Islands, which are projected to have small decreases of 0.2% and 0.3% respectively, are projected to experience population increase due to net migration over the next 10 years. This includes migration to and from overseas, the rest of the UK and within Scotland. Whereas natural change (births minus deaths) is projected to be negative in the majority of council areas.



All areas in Scotland are projected to age

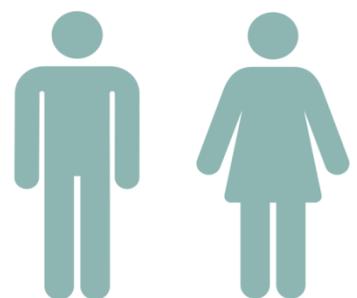
Between 2016 and 2026, all council areas in Scotland are projected to experience an increase in their population aged 75 and over. Clackmannanshire (+48.0%) and West Lothian (+46.0%) are projected to experience the largest increases, while Dundee City (+9.6%) and Glasgow City (+2.9%) have the smallest increases.



There is more information on the projections for Scotland's council areas in the interactive data visualisation accompanying the Population Projections for Scottish Areas which is available from the NRS website (<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/stats-at-a-glance/infographics-and-visualisations>).

Summary of main points

- **Scotland's population is projected to increase** from 5.40 million in 2016 to 5.58 million in 2026 – an increase of 3% over the 10 year period. However, this increase is not projected to occur across all areas of Scotland.
- The level of population change varies across Scotland's council areas. **The populations of 24 of the 32 council areas are projected to rise over the next 10 years.** The areas with the biggest population increases are Midlothian (+13%), East Lothian (+9%), City of Edinburgh (+8%) and East Renfrewshire (8%).
- Of the council areas projected to experience a fall in population, Na h-Eileanan Siar (-5%), Inverclyde (-4%) and Argyll and Bute (-3%) are projected to have the largest decreases. **The areas projected to decrease in population are concentrated in the west of Scotland.** North, East and South Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway and West Dunbartonshire are also projected to experience falls in population over the next 10 years.
- **Migration is driving projected increases in population in most areas.** All councils except Inverclyde and Shetland Islands, which are projected to have small decreases due to net migration of 0.2% and 0.3% respectively, are projected to experience population increase due to net migration over the next 10 years. This includes migration to and from overseas, the rest of the UK and within Scotland.
- **Two-thirds of Scotland's councils (22 councils) are projected to experience negative natural change,** meaning more deaths than births over the next 10 years to 2026.
- **All areas in Scotland are projected to age.** Between 2016 and 2026, all council areas in Scotland are projected to experience an increase in their population aged 75 and over. 29 of the 32 council areas are also projected to experience an increase in their population of pensionable age and over.
- **Most areas are also projected to see an increase in their working age population,** with 21 of 32 council areas in this category. However, parts of the west of Scotland and Scotland's island councils are projected to have smaller working age populations in 10 years' time.
- **Life expectancy is projected to increase in all areas of Scotland for both males and females.**



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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Population projections provide an indication of the future size and age structure of the population based on mid-year population estimates and a number of assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality and migration. The projections have been prepared for Council areas, NHS Boards, Strategic Development Plan (SDP) areas and National Park areas of Scotland.

These projections for Scottish areas take the [2016 mid-year population estimates](#) as their starting point. For each area, the projected population for each year is calculated by removing any special populations (such as prisoners and armed forces) from the previous year's population and then ageing on the remaining population. Local fertility and mortality rates are then applied to calculate the number of projected births and deaths. Rates to calculate migration within Scotland and with the rest of UK are also applied, before migrants to and from overseas are added and subtracted from the population. Finally, any special populations are added back in to give the final projected population. This is then repeated for each year of the projection. Further detail on the projections methodology is available in [Section 8](#).

The projections are consistent with the 2016-based national population projections for Scotland, prepared by ONS on behalf of NRS. The 2016-based [National Population Projections for Scotland](#) were published on 26 October 2017 on the National Records of Scotland website.

The results in this paper concentrate on results over the next 10 years to 2026, although projections have been produced for the next 25 years to 2041. However, the projection this far ahead becomes increasingly uncertain.

As well as producing the main principal projection, variant projections using alternative plausible assumptions are also produced. The seven variants included in this publication are: high fertility, low fertility, high life expectancy, low life expectancy, high migration, low migration and zero outwith Scotland migration. More information on the variant projections is available in [Section 7](#).

1.2. Additional information

Tables containing the results from the projections covering the period 2016 to 2041 are available from the [NRS website](#). Detailed data tables, including information on components of population change by single year of age and sex for each variant, are available on request by contacting statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk.

An overview of the results from the projections is available in NRS' [Council area profiles](#), along with other NRS statistics.

An [interactive data visualisation](#) accompanying this publication has also been produced to allow users to explore further the results for areas that they are interested in.

1.3. Uses of projections

The primary purpose of sub-national projections is to provide estimates of the future population of areas in Scotland as a common framework for use in resource allocation and local planning in a number of different fields such as education and health, for environmental scanning and for land-use and transport models. These projections are

used as inputs to Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) funding allocations and looking at the implications of an ageing population. They are also used for making comparisons between areas, as inputs to the National Records of Scotland household projections, and as controls for small area population projections.

1.4. National Statistics

The UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) has designated this publication as National Statistics, in line with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The UKSA reassessed NRS population estimates and projections in 2016 and published a [letter of confirmation as National Statistics](#), available on their website. Further information can be found in the [UK Statistics Authority-Assessments](#) section on the NRS website.

2. Limitations of projections

When using a projection it is important to note some key limitations.

- A projection is a calculation showing what happens under certain assumptions about future fertility, mortality and migration. More information on the assumptions underlying the 2016-based projections is available in [Section 8](#).
- The assumptions are based on past trends and do not take account of any future changes that may occur as a result of policy initiatives but may reflect the past impact of policy and economic changes. These projections are not, therefore, forecasts of what the government expects to happen based on policy.

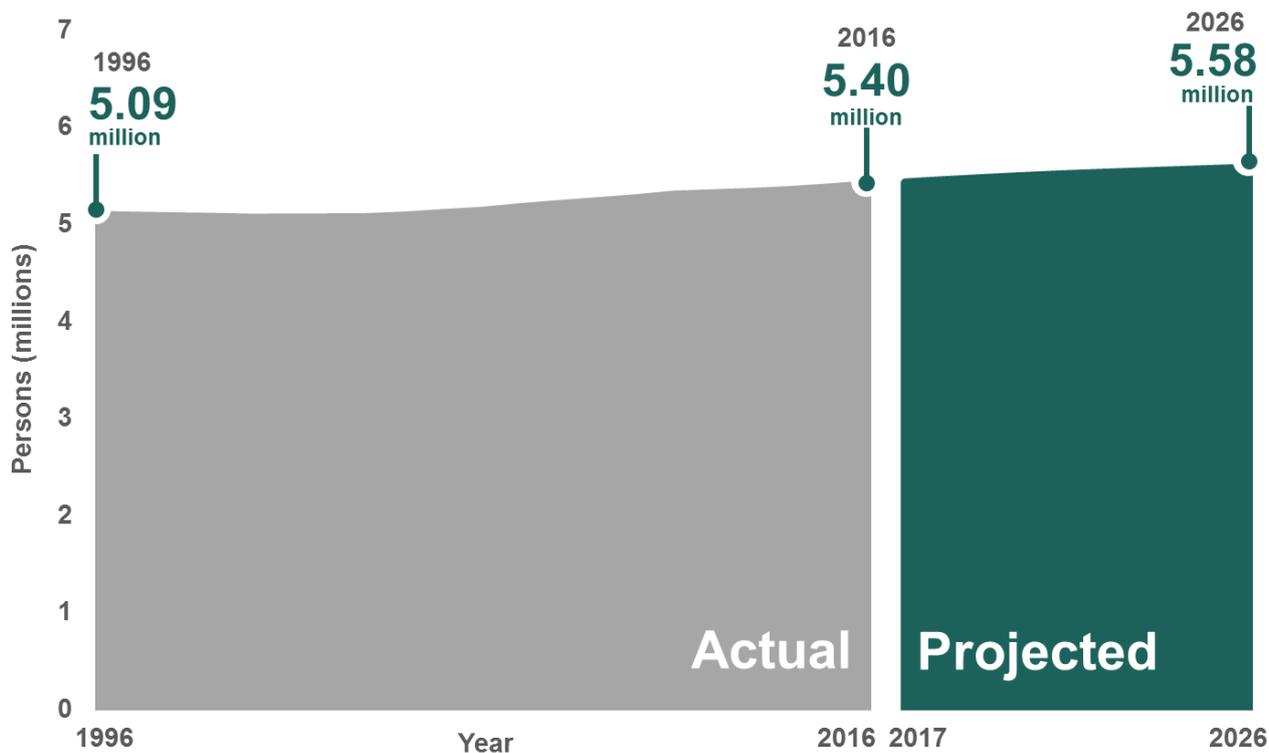
More information is available in the [uses and limitations of projections section](#) of the NRS website.

3. Results

3.1. Scotland's population is projected to increase

Scotland's population has increased over the last 20 years, from 5.09 million in 1996 to the latest estimate of 5.40 million in 2016. Figure 1 shows that at Scotland level, the population is projected to rise to 5.58 million over the next 10 years, an increase of 174,000 (3.2%).

Figure 1: Estimated and projected population of Scotland, 1996 to 2026



Note

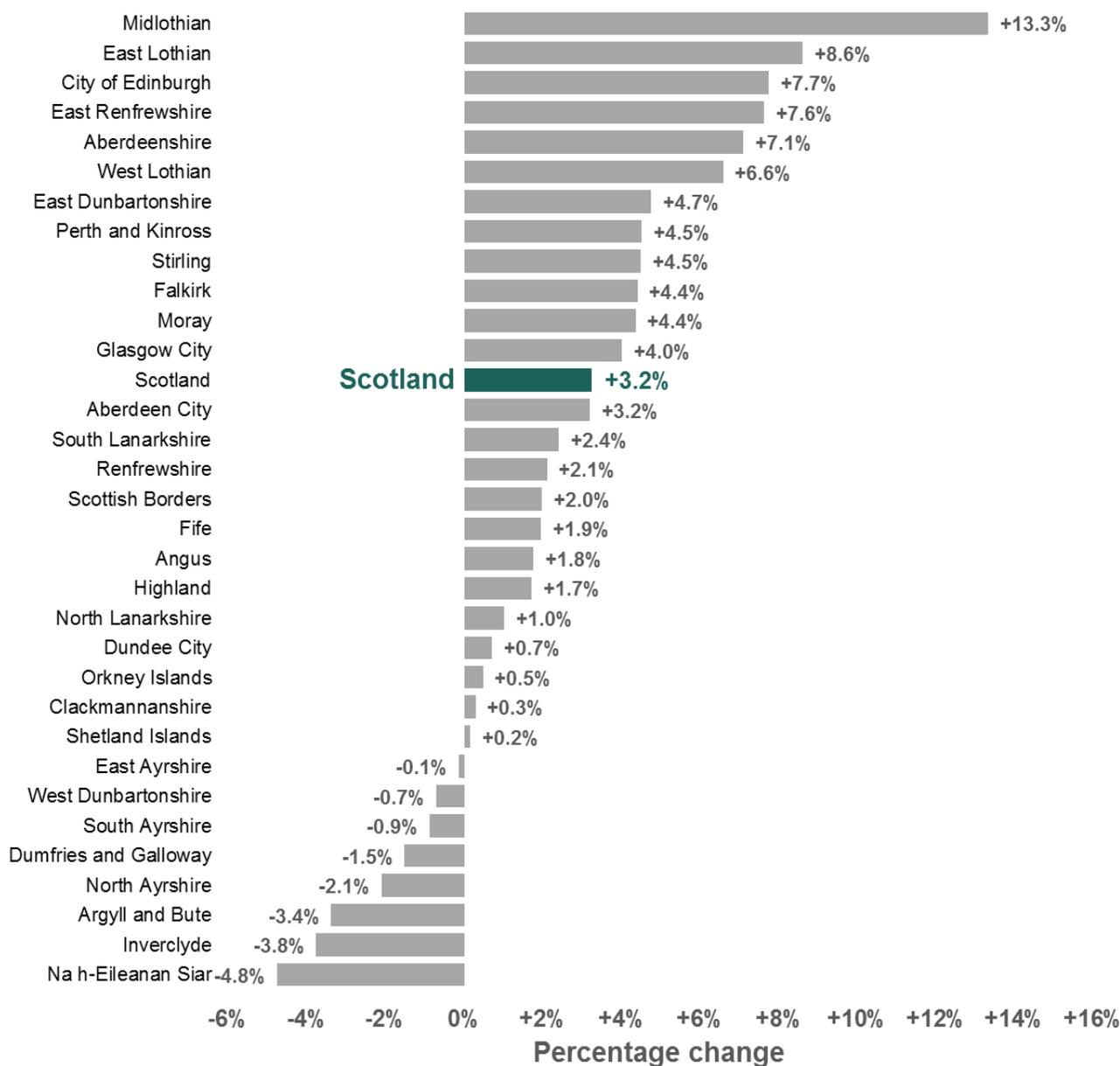
Figures up to and including 2016 are mid-year population estimates (actual). Figures after this date are 2016-based mid-year projections (projected).

3.2. Projections for council areas: most areas are projected to increase in population

Most of Scotland's council areas are projected to increase in population over the next 10 years, as shown in figure [Figure 2a](#). The highest increases are projected for Midlothian (+13.3%), followed by East Lothian (+8.6%) and City of Edinburgh(+7.7%).

However, not all of Scotland's council areas are projected to increase in population over the next 10 years. A total of 8 council areas (out of 32) are projected to experience a decrease in population over this period. The largest decreases are projected for Na h-Eileanan Siar (-4.8%), Inverclyde (-3.8%) and Argyll and Bute (-3.4%).

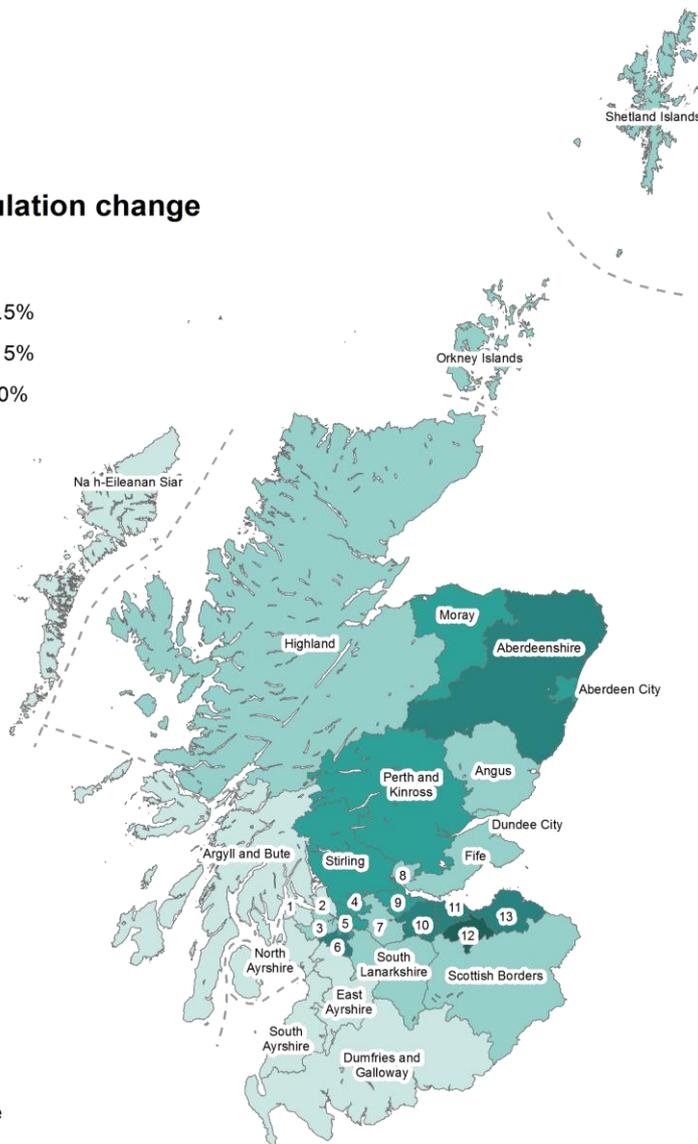
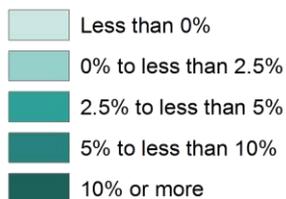
Figure 2a: Projected percentage change in population, by council area, 2016 to 2026



The council areas projected to decrease in population are concentrated in the west of Scotland as shown in [Figure 2b](#). In contrast, the area around City of Edinburgh is projected to have a relatively large increase in population, with central and north-eastern Scotland also projected to experience population increases.

Figure 2b: Projected percentage change in population, by council area, 2016 to 2026 (Map)

Percentage population change



- 1. Inverclyde
- 2. West Dunbartonshire
- 3. Renfrewshire
- 4. East Dunbartonshire
- 5. Glasgow City
- 6. East Renfrewshire
- 7. North Lanarkshire
- 8. Clackmannanshire
- 9. Falkirk
- 10. West Lothian
- 11. City of Edinburgh
- 12. Midlothian
- 13. East Lothian



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3.3. Migration is driving projected increases in population in most areas

Population change is driven by two main components, natural change and net migration. Natural change is the number of births minus the number of deaths. If the number of births exceeds the number of deaths then the population will grow. Net migration is the number of people moving into an area minus the number of people leaving an area. If the number of people moving into an area to live exceeds the number of people leaving, then the population will grow.

Table 1 compares the projected rates of natural change and net migration across council areas between 2016 and 2026. The table shows the total percentage change in population and the changes due to natural change and net migration. For example, of the 3.2% projected growth in Scotland's population over the next 10 years, 3.4 percentage points are attributable to migration and -0.2 percentage points (a reduction) is due to negative natural change (more deaths than births).

All areas except Inverclyde and Shetland Islands, which are projected to have small decreases of 0.2% and 0.3% respectively, are projected to experience population increase due to net migration over the next 10 years. This includes migration to and from overseas, the rest of the UK and within Scotland.

The highest increases in population from net migration are in Midlothian (+10.9%), East Lothian (+8.3%) and East Renfrewshire (+7.9%).

Comparatively few council areas are projected to see a population increase due to natural change, with only 10 of them in this category. The scale of the increases are also smaller than for net migration, with the highest being in City of Edinburgh (+2.5%), Midlothian (+2.5%) and West Lothian (+2.2%). The biggest decreases are projected for Na h-Eileanan Siar (-4.8%), Argyll and Bute (-4.7%) and South Ayrshire (-4.5%).

Table 1: Components of projected population change for council areas, 2016 to 2026

| Area | Projected | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Natural change (percentage) | Net migration (percentage) | Population change (percentage) |
| Scotland | -0.2 | 3.4 | 3.2 |
| Council areas (ordered by projected population change) | | | |
| Na h-Eileanan Siar | -4.8 | 0.4 | -4.8 |
| Inverclyde | -3.4 | -0.2 | -3.8 |
| Argyll and Bute | -4.7 | 1.4 | -3.4 |
| North Ayrshire | -2.9 | 0.8 | -2.1 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | -4.2 | 2.7 | -1.5 |
| South Ayrshire | -4.5 | 3.7 | -0.9 |
| West Dunbartonshire | -1.3 | 0.7 | -0.7 |
| East Ayrshire | -1.2 | 0.9 | -0.1 |
| Shetland Islands | 0.9 | -0.3 | 0.2 |
| Clackmannanshire | -0.2 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| Orkney Islands | -1.9 | 2.8 | 0.5 |
| Dundee City | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| North Lanarkshire | -0.3 | 1.1 | 1.0 |
| Highland | -1.2 | 3.0 | 1.7 |
| Angus | -2.2 | 4.1 | 1.8 |
| Fife | -0.6 | 2.5 | 1.9 |
| Scottish Borders | -2.2 | 4.2 | 2.0 |
| Renfrewshire | -1.1 | 3.1 | 2.1 |
| South Lanarkshire | -1.1 | 3.4 | 2.4 |
| Aberdeen City | 2.0 | 1.1 | 3.2 |
| Glasgow City | 2.0 | 1.9 | 4.0 |
| Moray | -1.1 | 5.6 | 4.4 |
| Falkirk | -0.1 | 4.4 | 4.4 |
| Stirling | -0.6 | 5.3 | 4.5 |
| Perth and Kinross | -1.9 | 6.5 | 4.5 |
| East Dunbartonshire | -1.2 | 6.2 | 4.7 |
| West Lothian | 2.2 | 4.2 | 6.6 |
| Aberdeenshire | 1.5 | 5.6 | 7.1 |
| East Renfrewshire | 0.0 | 7.9 | 7.6 |
| City of Edinburgh | 2.5 | 5.2 | 7.7 |
| East Lothian | 0.4 | 8.3 | 8.6 |
| Midlothian | 2.5 | 10.9 | 13.3 |

Notes

Projected natural change and net migration are not the only components of change. Other changes that are not included in this table include changes in armed forces and prisoner populations and changes due to constraining to the National Population Projections for Scotland.

Totals may not sum due to rounding.

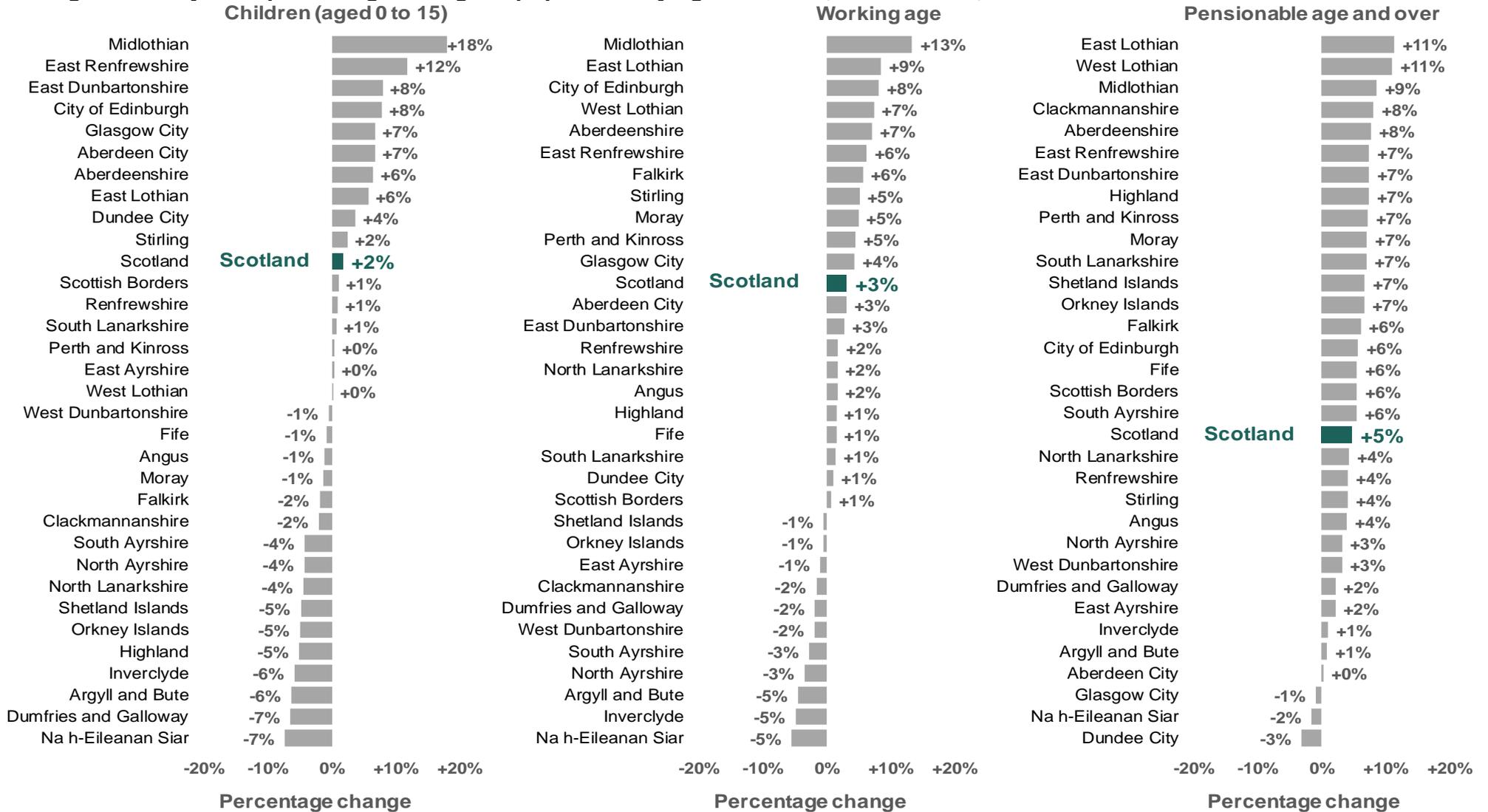
3.4. All areas in Scotland are projected to age

Figure 3 shows the projected percentage change in population for each council area over the next 10 years for children, working age and pensionable age¹. Half of council areas (16 in total) are projected to have an increased number of children, with two thirds (21 councils) projected to experience an increase in their working age population¹. The pension age population is projected to increase in all but three areas, with only Dundee City (-3%), Na h-Eileanan Siar (-2%) and Glasgow City (-1%) seeing a decrease for this age group.

1)The figures for working age and pensionable age and over take into account the changes in the state pension age as set out in the 2014 Pensions Act. Between 2016 and 2018, the state pension age will rise from 63 to 65 for women. Then between 2019 and 2020, it will rise from 65 years to 66 years for both men and women. A further rise in state pension age to 67 will take place between 2026 and 2028. At the time of publication, the state pension age is due to rise to 68 years between 2044 and 2046. However, a Pension Age Review published in March 2017 by the UK Government recommends bringing the rise to 68 forward to between 2037 and 2039. However, this recommendation has not yet been passed into legislation, so the figures presented here do not include this change.

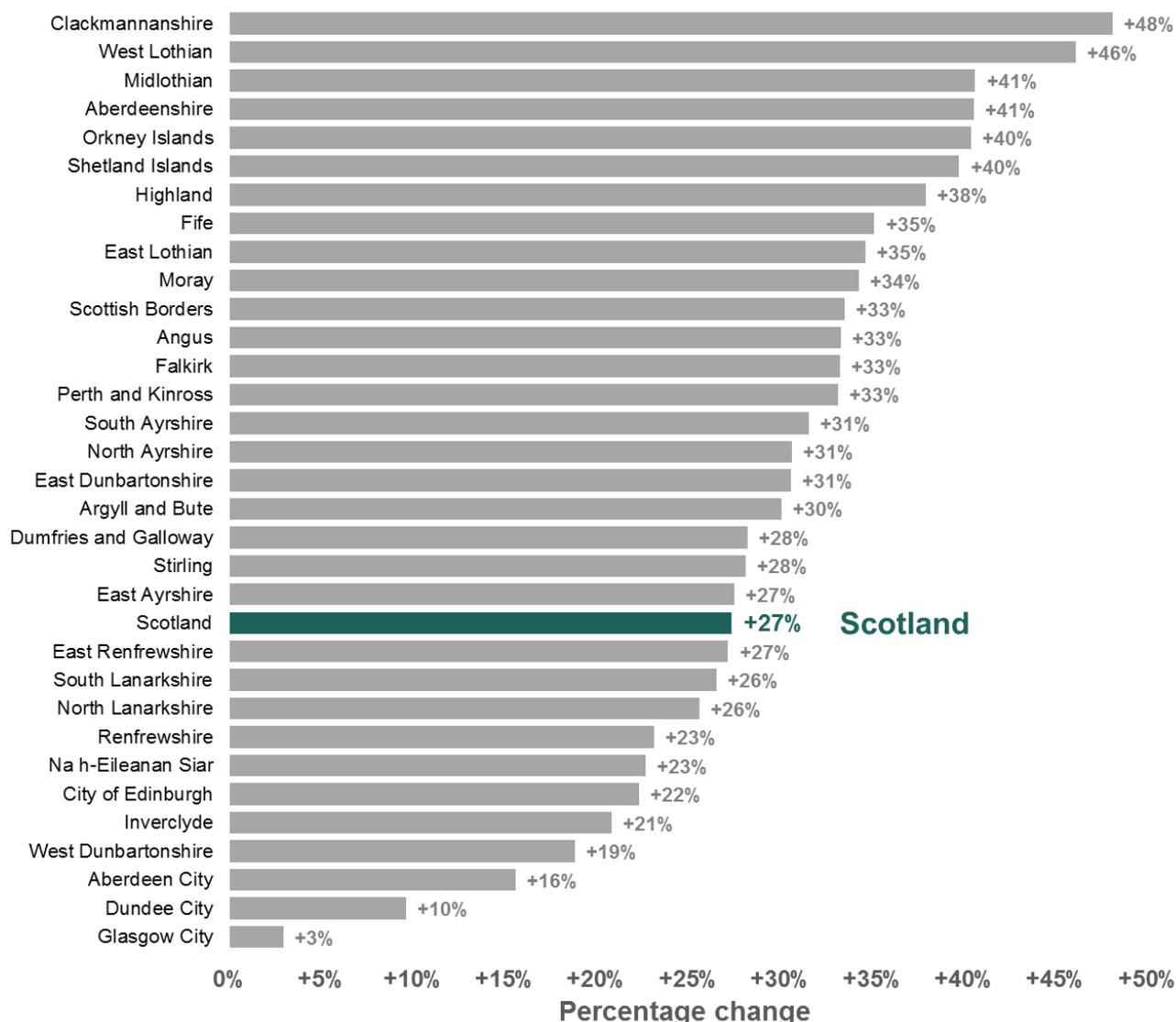
More information is available in the [Pension Age Review final report](#) on the UK Government website.

Figure 3: Projected percentage change in population by age structure, council area, 2016 to 2026



Between 2016 and 2026, all council areas in Scotland are projected to experience an increase in their population aged 75 and over (Figure 4). The biggest increases for this age group are in Clackmannanshire (+48%) and West Lothian (+46%), while Dundee City (+10%) and Glasgow City (+3%) are projected to see the smallest rises.

Figure 4: Projected percentage change in population aged 75 and over, by council area, 2016 to 2026



3.5. Life expectancy is projected to increase across all of Scotland

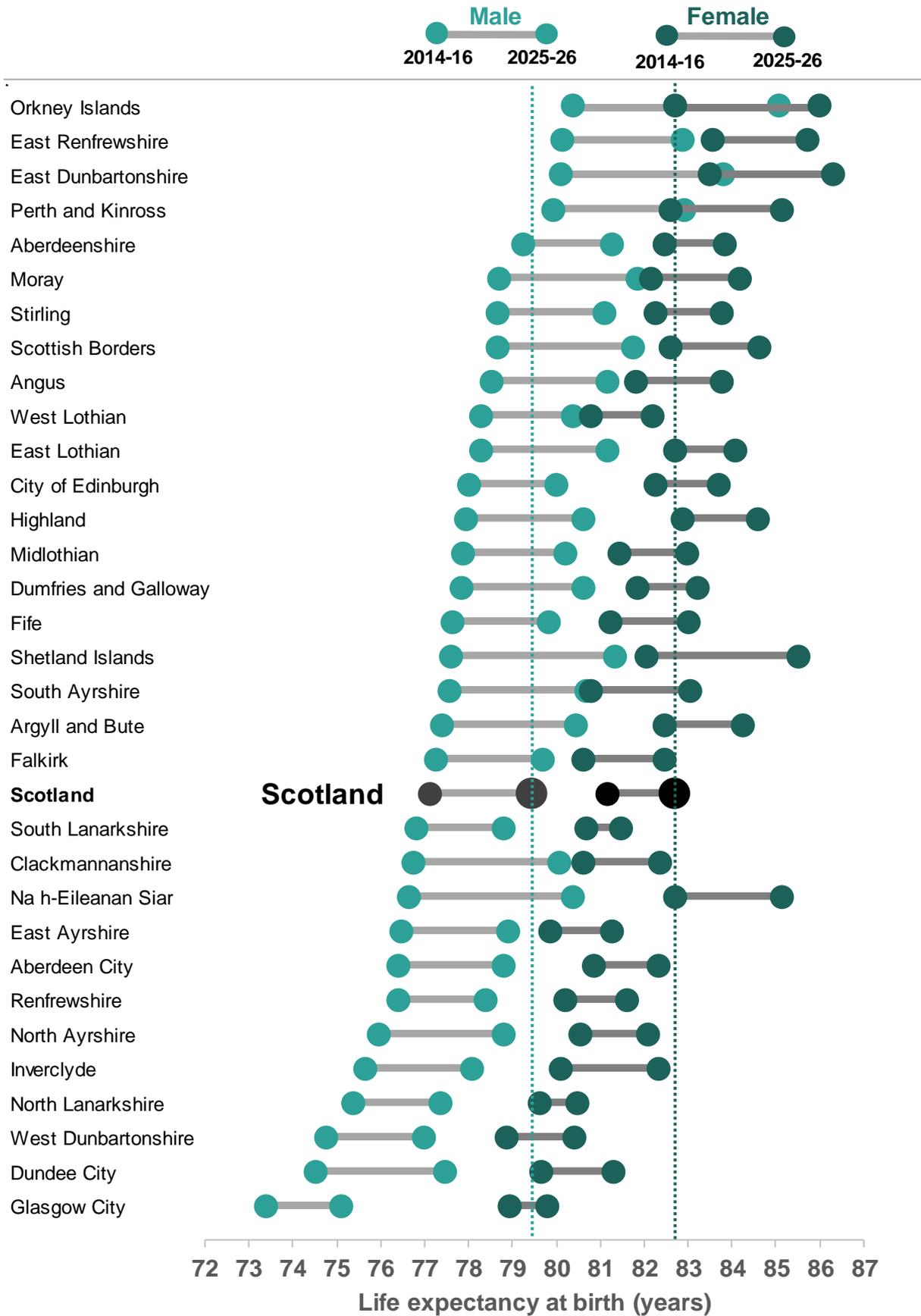
Looking at the detailed assumptions in the sub-national population projections, we can understand how life expectancy is projected to change in future. Overall, life expectancy is projected to increase in all areas of Scotland for both males and females. Figure 5 shows the latest estimated life expectancy at birth (2014-16) and the projected life expectancy at birth in 2025-26 for each area. Many of the areas with highest estimated life expectancies for men and women are projected to remain amongst the highest in 10 years' time, although there is some variation.

The council areas with the highest projected life expectancy for males in 2025-26 are Orkney Islands (85.1 years) and East Dunbartonshire (83.8 years), whilst the area with the lowest male life expectancy is Glasgow City (75.1 years).

For females, it is projected that by 2025-26 a baby girl could expect to live for 86.3 years in East Dunbartonshire and 86.0 years in Orkney Islands. Females born in Glasgow City in 2025-26, the area with the lowest life expectancy, could expect to live for 79.8 years.

Male life expectancy is also projected to increase faster than female life expectancy in all areas over the next 10 years. The largest increase for males is found in Orkney Islands where a baby boy in 2025-26 could expect to live for 4.7 years longer than a baby boy born in 2014-16. For females, the fastest increase is projected over the next 10 years is for Shetland Islands, with an increase of 3.5 years.

Figure 5: Estimated¹ and projected² life male and female expectancy at birth for council areas, 2014-16 and 2025-26



Footnotes

- 1) Estimated life expectancy for each area is a 3 year average covering the period 2014-2016.
- 2) Projected life expectancy is calculated for a single year from mid-2025 to mid-2026.

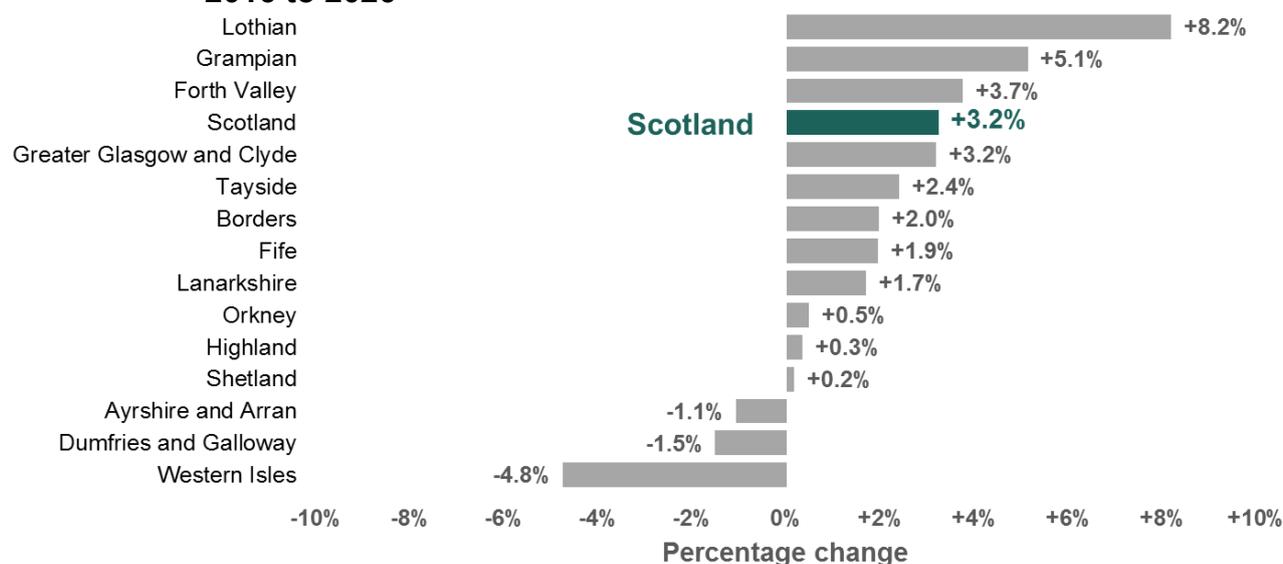
4. Results for NHS Boards, Strategic Development Plan areas and National Park areas

4.1. NHS Boards

Projections have also been prepared for NHS Boards. Eleven of the fourteen NHS Boards are projected to increase in population over the next 10 years, as shown in Figure 6. The areas with the largest projected increases are Lothian (+8.2%), and Grampian (+5.1%). Forth Valley (+3.7%) is also projected to increase by more than the national average (+3.2% for Scotland) between 2016 and 2026.

The areas with projected decreases in population are Western Isles (-4.8%), Dumfries and Galloway (-1.5%) and Ayrshire and Arran (-1.1%).

Figure 6: Projected percentage change in population, by NHS Board, 2016 to 2026



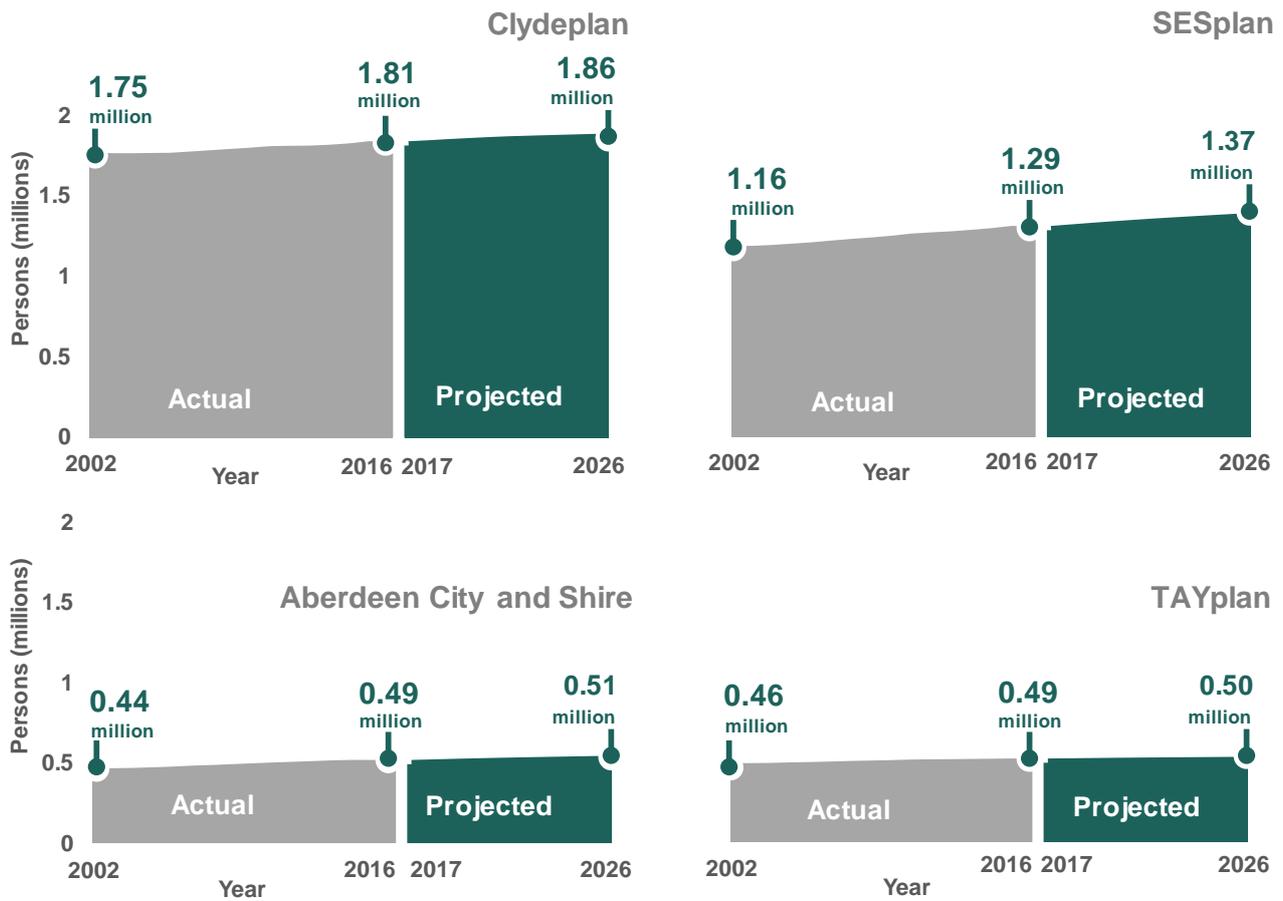
4.2. Strategic Development Plan areas

Strategic Development Plan (SDP) areas cover the regions around Aberdeen (Aberdeen City and Shire), Glasgow (Clydeplan), Edinburgh (SESplan) and Dundee (TAYplan). Three quarters of the population of Scotland live in these areas.

Figure 7 shows the projected population change over the next 10 years for the SDP areas. In summary:

- The population of Aberdeen City and Shire is projected to increase by 5.3% over the next 10 years, from 0.49 million in 2016 to 0.51 million in 2026.
- The population of Clydeplan is projected to increase by 2.6% over the next 10 years, from 1.81 million in 2016 to 1.86 million in 2026.
- The population of SESplan is projected to increase by 6.3% over the next 10 years, from 1.29 million in 2016 to 1.37 million in 2026.
- The population of TAYplan is projected to increase by 2.2% over the next 10 years, from 0.49 million in 2016 to 0.50 million in 2026.

Figure 7: Estimated and projected population of Strategic Development Plan areas, 2002 to 2026



Note

Figures up to and including 2016 are mid-year population estimates. Figures after this date are 2016-based projections.

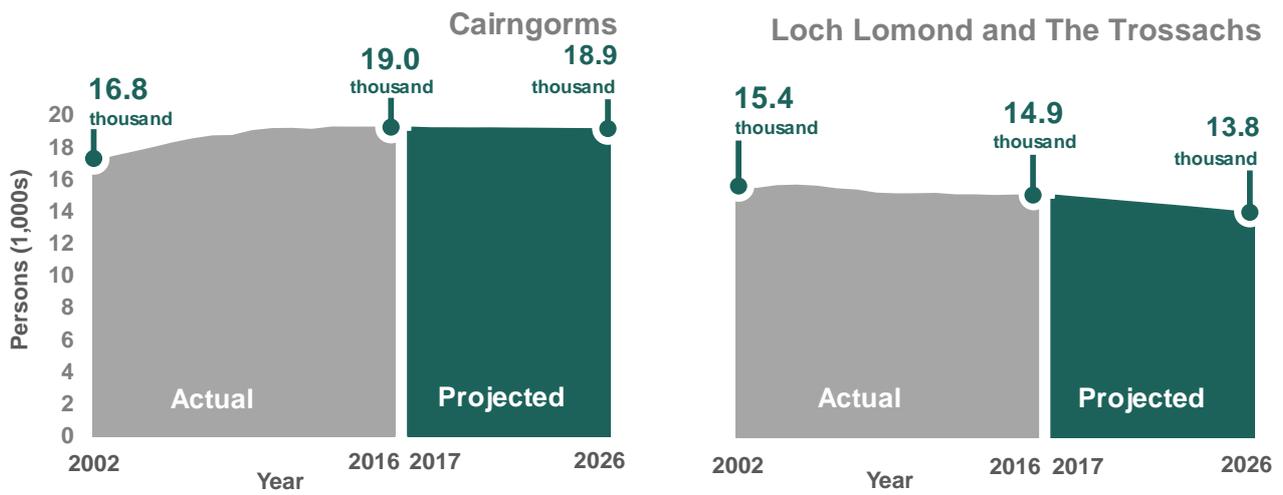
4.3. National Park areas

National Parks are protected areas of beautiful countryside, wildlife and cultural heritage. There are two in Scotland: Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, and Cairngorms National Park. Each is managed by a National Park Authority.

Figure 8 shows the projected population change over the next 10 years for the SDP areas. In summary:

- The population of Cairngorms is projected to decrease by 0.5% between 2016 and 2026, from 19,000 to 18,900.
- The population of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs is projected to experience a bigger decrease in population of 7.5% over the next 10 years, from 14,900 in 2016 to 13,800 in 2026.

Figure 8: Estimated and projected population of National Park areas, 2002 to 2026



Note

Figures up to and including 2016 are mid-year population estimates. Figures after this date are 2016-based projections.

5. Comparison with previous projections

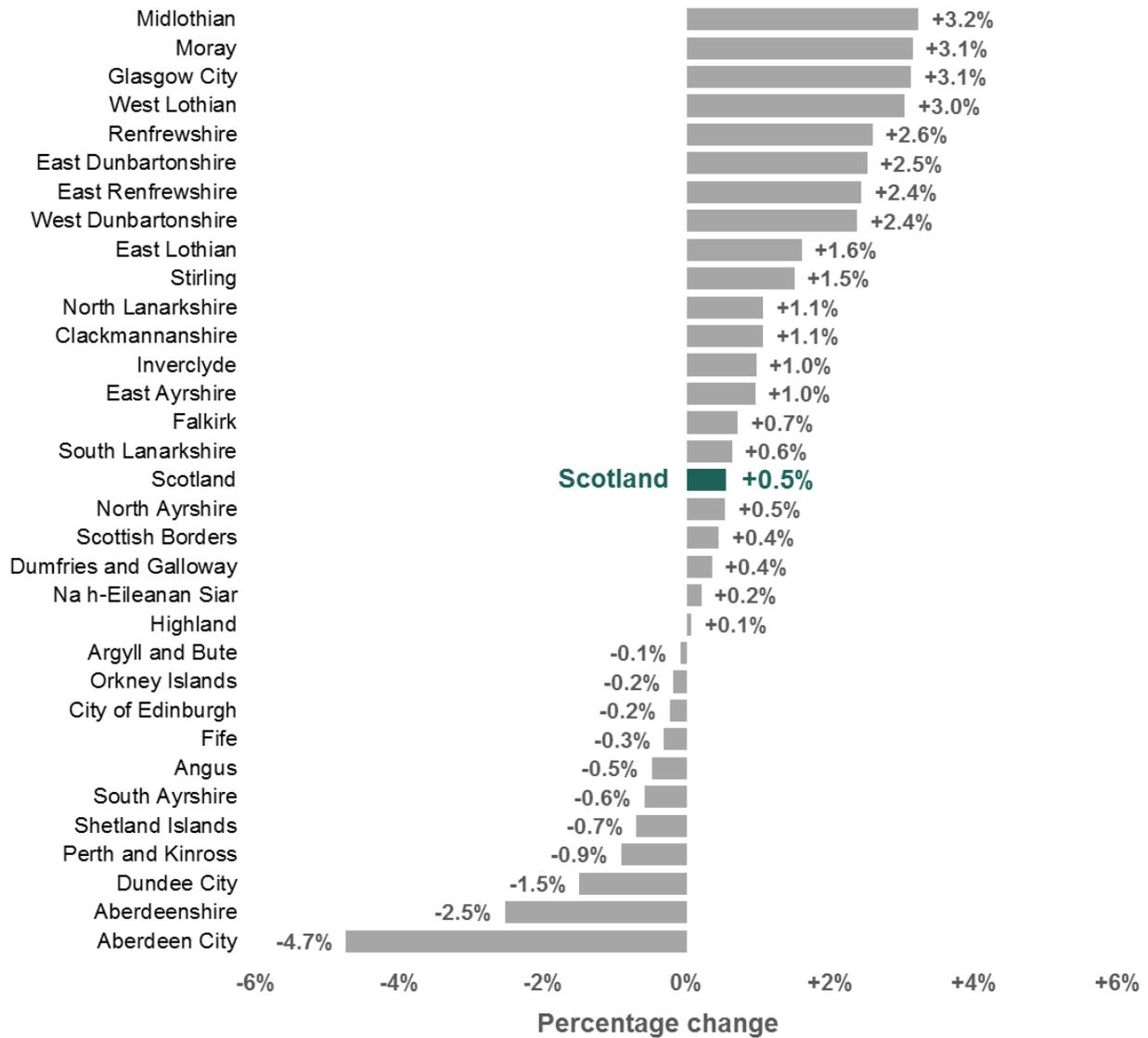
The latest projections, based on the population estimates for 2016, have a different starting point to the last projections, which were based on the population estimates for 2014. There are also differences between the two sets of projections due to changes to the fertility, mortality and migration assumptions.

There have been some underlying demographic changes to note in the intervening two years. At Scotland level, the birth rate has fallen slightly and life expectancy has remained the same over the past 2 years, while there has been a recent increase in net migration. These changes resulted in Scotland's population in 2016 being estimated at 5.40 million, 24,400 (0.5%) higher than was projected for 2016 by the 2014-based projections.

[Figure 9](#) shows the percentage difference in each council area's projected population in 2026 between the 2014-based and 2016-based projections. Midlothian (+3.2%), Moray (+3.1%), Glasgow City (+3.1%) and West Lothian (3.0%) all have projected populations over 3% higher in the latest projections.

Some council areas, however, have a lower projected population in 2026 under the new projections. However, as shown in [Figure 2a](#), some of these areas are still projected to increase in population from 2016 to 2026, but not by as much as in the 2014-based projections. For example, Aberdeen City's population is projected to be 4.7% lower in 2026 in the 2016-based projections compared with the 2014-based projections. But it is still projected to increase by 3.2% between 2016 and 2026 in the 2016-based projections.

Figure 9: Percentage difference between projected 2026 population using 2014-based and 2016-based projections, by council area



6. Variant Projections

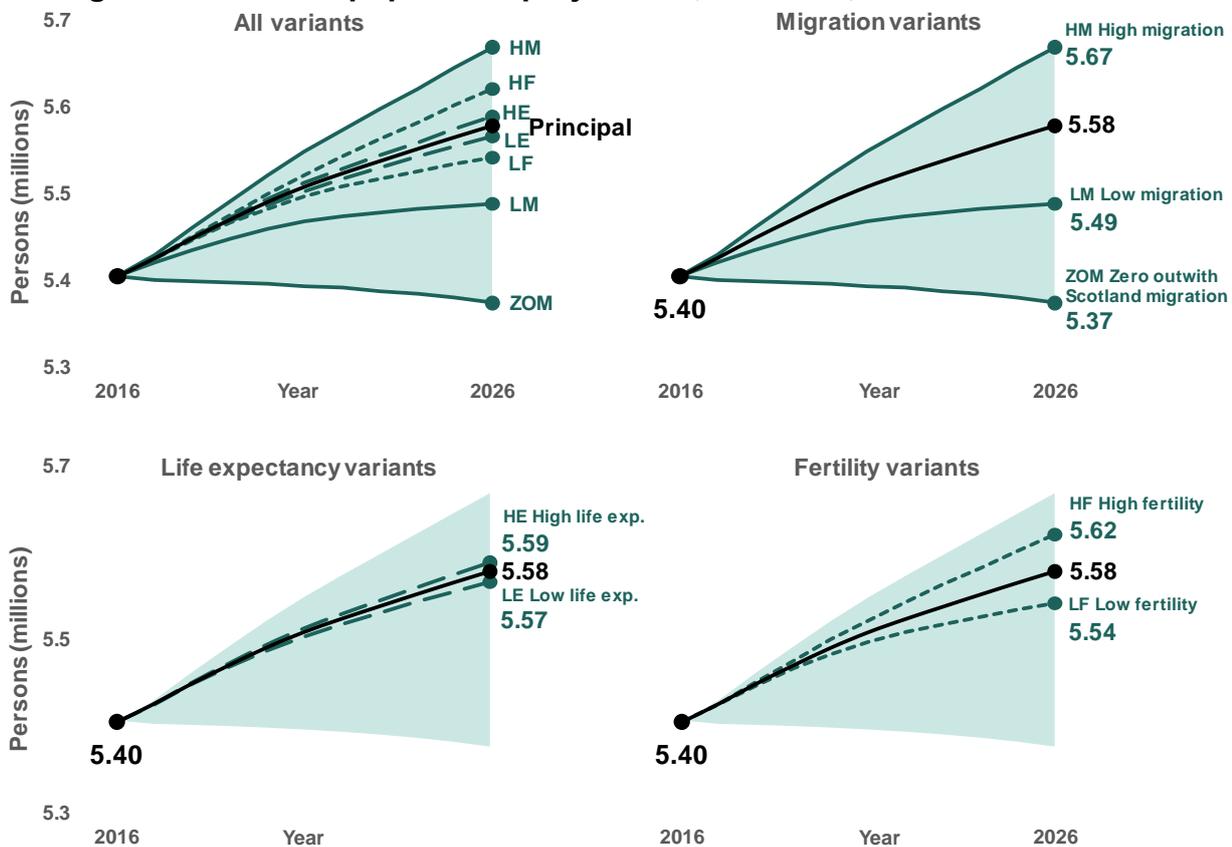
Most of this paper concentrates on the principal projection, however seven variant projections have been produced for Scottish areas. These variant projections are based on alternative assumptions of future fertility, mortality and migration. The variants are produced to give users an indication of the inherent uncertainty of demographic behaviour, especially for the long-term projections. The purpose is to illustrate plausible alternative scenarios and not to represent upper or lower limits for future demographic behaviour. These projections are simply scenarios (the certain outcome of a given set of assumptions), rather than forecasts of the most likely course of future events.

Figure 10 shows the projected population for Scotland under the principal and each variant projection. The high life expectancy and high fertility variants result in smaller differences to the principal projection for the total population of Scotland compared with the migration variants. This reflects the higher level of uncertainty present in the migration assumptions, especially for international migration.

A special case migration variant, zero outwith Scotland migration, has also been produced. This variant assumes no migration between Scotland and the rest of the UK or overseas, but still projects migration between areas within Scotland.

Results for each variant and details of the assumptions used are available from [Table 6 and Table 11](#) on National Records of Scotland website. An [interactive data visualisation](#) allowing users to compare results from the different variants is also available.

Figure 10: Variant population projections, Scotland, 2016-2026



Scale does not start at zero

7. Methodology, the base population and assumptions used in the projections

7.1. Methodology

The 2016-based population projections for Scottish areas are based on the latest estimated population at 30 June 2016 for each area. A set of demographic assumptions about future fertility, mortality and migration, based on analysis of trends, are used to project future births, deaths and migration.

The population for each area is projected using the cohort component method. This involves taking the population at the beginning of the year, adding births and removing deaths and then applying the in and out migration to the population.

More information on the method used to produce these projections is available from the [Sub-national population projections](#) section of the National Records of Scotland website.

7.2. Base Population

The projections are based on the 2016 [Mid-year Population Estimates](#). The population covered includes all persons usually resident in Scotland, whatever their nationality. Members of HM forces and non-UK armed forces stationed in Scotland are included; HM forces stationed outside Scotland are excluded. Students are treated as being resident at their term-time address.

7.3. Past trends

The assumptions about future patterns in fertility, mortality and migration are based on analysis of past trends. This analysis allows the differences in trends between each area and the Scotland-level trends to be incorporated into the projection.

7.4. Fertility

In the projections, 'fertility' is taken to mean the total number of children a woman would have, on average, at the end of her child-bearing years. It is sometimes expressed as 'completed family size'. The long-term total fertility rate for Scotland is assumed to be 1.65 in the principal projection.

Past trends in the number of births in each area is compared with the national trends. This is used to calculate a differential rate that is then applied to the Scotland-level fertility rates from the National Population Projections to calculate the future number of births for each area.

7.5. Mortality

At Scotland level, future improvements in mortality rates are based on the trend observed in the period 1961 to 2015. Based on these rates, the expectations of life at birth for Scotland are projected to increase from 77.1 years for those born around 2015 to 79.4 years in 2026 for males, and from 81.2 years for those born around 2015 to 82.7 years in 2026 for females, as shown in [Figure 5](#).

Similarly to births, the number of deaths in each area is compared with the national trends. For deaths this is done separately by sex for three age groups; 0-59, 60-79 and 80 and over. A differential rate is calculated for each of these groups for each area, which is applied to the Scotland level mortality rates from the National Population Projections to calculate the future number of deaths in each area.

7.6. Migration

Three types of migration are modelled separately by the projections; within Scotland migration, migration between Scottish areas and the rest of the UK and migration between Scottish areas and overseas. Flows of in-migrants and out-migrants by sex are modelled separately.

For within Scotland migration and rest of UK migration, trends in migration over the previous five years between Scottish areas and the rest of the UK is analysed. This is used to create a rate of that is then applied to the projected population for each area to calculate the number of in and out migrants. The sum of migration between all of the Scottish areas and the rest of the UK is then made consistent with the Scotland-level figures from the National Population Projections.

Overseas migration is projected differently. Each area's overseas migration is projected separately. These figures are then used to proportionally distribute the overseas migration at Scotland level from the National Population Projections to each area.

Projected natural change and assumed net migration are not independent of each other. The projected numbers of future births and deaths are themselves partly dependent on the assumed level of net migration.

8. Links to related statistics

- More detailed age and sex breakdowns of the results for Scottish areas are available from the [Sub-national population projections](#) section of the NRS website. Detailed data tables are available on request by contacting statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk.
- An overview of the results from the projections is available in NRS' [Council area profiles](#), along with other NRS statistics. An [interactive data visualisation](#) accompanying this publication has also been produced to allow users to explore further the results for areas that they are interested
- The national population projections for Scotland are available from the [Population Projections](#) page of the NRS website. These projections for Scottish areas are consistent with the Scotland-level projection.
- These projections are based on the 2016 mid-year population estimates. More information on these estimates are available from the [Mid-year Population Estimates](#) section of the NRS website.
- Population projections are also produced for similar small areas in [England](#), by the Office for National Statistics, [Wales](#), by the Welsh Government, and [Northern Ireland](#), by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. However, it should be noted that these projections are not directly comparable due to differences in methodology and base years. More information on the similarities and differences in these projections is available in the [subnational population projections across the UK](#) page on the ONS website.
- NRS has also produced one-off experimental projections for small areas within councils. It should be noted, however, that these projections are based on the 2012 mid-year population estimates, so are not consistent with these latest projections for Scottish areas which are based on the 2016 mid-year population estimates. More details are available from the [Population and Household Projections for Scottish Sub-Council Areas](#) section of the NRS website.

9. 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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