How is Scotland’s population changing? What are the implications?

Esther Roughsedge

@NatRecordsScot #DataFest19
National Records of Scotland: Telling the Story of Scotland

Preserving the past
Recording the present
Informing the future

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Why is population change important?

• Demand for services
• Education
• Health and social care provision
• Housing
• Workforce size/skills
• Tax revenues
• Pensions
• Funding allocations
• Impact on natural environment
Overview of how Scotland’s population is changing
Scotland’s population was the **highest ever** in 2017, and is **projected to rise**

**Millions of people**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>5.1M</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>5.1M</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5.4M</td>
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<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>5.6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2041</td>
<td>5.7M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mid-year population estimates** | **Population projections**

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Births exceeded deaths in the 1950s-60s, but more recent figures are lower.

Natural change (births minus deaths)

28.6K

0

2017

-3.8K

-10.8K

Estimates

Projections ----->

1952 1970 2000 2017 2041

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Since ~2000, Scotland’s population has increased mostly due to migration.
Population projections under different migration assumptions

Millions of people

- 5.96m High migration
- 5.78m 50% more EU migration
- 5.69m Principal projection
- 5.60m 50% less EU migration
- 5.52m Zero EU migration
- 5.43m Low migration
- 5.17m Zero net migration

2016

2041

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Population is increasing overall, but projected to decline in one quarter of Scottish council areas.
Implications – overall population change

• Need and demand for services
• Tax revenues to fund services
• Local workforce / skills
Age structure
Most population growth is among pensioners.

Projected population change, 2016-2041

- **Main projection**
  - Total population: 5%
  - Children: -2%
  - Working age: 1%
  - Pensionable age: 25%

- **Zero EU migration variant**
  - Total population: 2%
  - Children: -7%
  - Working age: -3%
  - Pensionable age: 25%

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Example: population projections:
https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sub-national-population-projections/

Aberdeen City
Projected Population by age and gender
Principal projection, 2016 (solid) and 2016 (line)

Aberdeenshire
Projected Population by age and gender
Principal projection, 2016 (solid) and 2016 (line)
Average age
Scotland's Census 2011 – scotland.datashine.org.uk

Map: scotland.datashine.org.uk

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Implications – ageing population

- **Opportunities** (capacity to contribute longer)
- **Challenges** (greater demand for public and voluntary services)
- **Relatively smaller working age population**

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Births, deaths and life expectancy
People in Scotland have fewer children than in other parts of the UK.
Life expectancy was steadily increasing, but has now fallen slightly.

Life expectancy at birth

- Female 75.3 to 81.1
- Male 69.1 to 77.0

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Life expectancy in Scotland is lower than in most EU countries.

Life expectancy at birth in EU countries, females

- Spain, 86.3
- UK, 82.9
- Estonia, 82.2
- Scotland, 81.1
- Lithuania, 80.1
- Bulgaria, 78.5

Dotted lines are eastern European countries that have recently joined the EU.
Life expectancy in Scotland is lower than in the rest of the UK
Deaths from **circulatory diseases** are decreasing, while deaths from **dementia** and **Alzheimer’s** are increasing.

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Housing
Changes in **house prices**

**Median house prices in all Scottish council areas**

- East Renfrewshire, £234,300
- Aberdeenshire, £199,995
- Aberdeen City, £175,500
- Scotland, £152,355
- Angus, £145,000
- Dundee City, £125,000
- West Dunbartonshire, £95,155

**Source:** Registers of Scotland

- 2008 - economic downturn
Large increases in people renting

Age structure of private rented sector

Source: Scottish Household Survey
More people are living alone or in smaller households

Number of households, by household size

Source: NRS household estimates and Scottish Household Survey
Implications - Housing

• Growth of Private Rented Sector
• Support needs of people living alone, particularly older people
Key messages

• **Population**
  – Population is at its **highest** ever at 5,404,700
  – Overall population is **increasing**, mostly due to **migration**
  – Population is **ageing**, with most growth among pensioners

• **Births and deaths**
  – **Birth rates** are **lower** in Scotland than in the rest of the UK
  – **Life expectancy has increased** over the past 3 decades, but has stalled in recent years.
  – **Life expectancy** is lower than in the rest of the UK, and western Europe

• **Housing**
  – More people **living alone**
  – Large growth in people **renting**
How to find out more

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www.nrscotland.gov.uk
www.scotlandsccensus.gov.uk
Census maps: scotland.datashine.org.uk
www.statistics.gov.scot

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