

# High Level Summary of Statistics

## Population and Migration

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## Scotland's Population

### Recent Trends

Last updated: April 2016

The estimated population of Scotland on 30 June 2015 was 5,373,000, an increase of 25,400 from the previous year.

The recent increase in Scotland's population was largely driven by net in-migration. In the 12 months to mid-2015 in-migration exceeded out-migration by approximately 28,000. Deaths exceeded births by approximately 2,000 and other changes, such as in armed forces and prisoners, resulted in a loss of approximately 500 people.

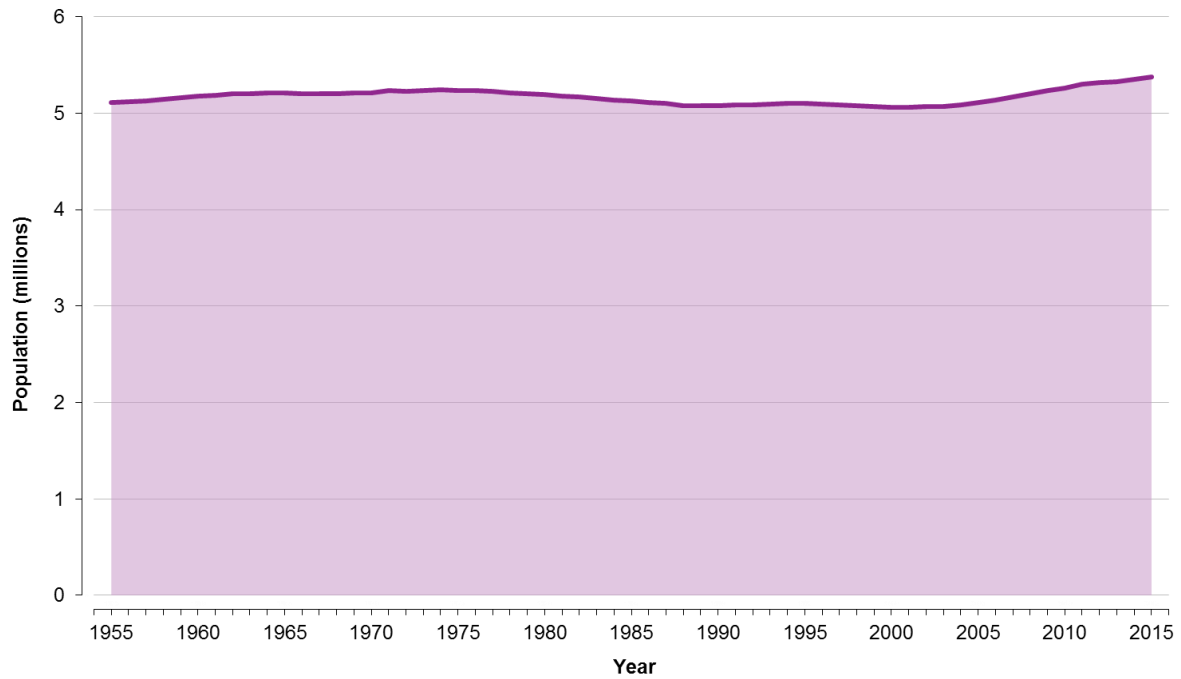
Between mid-2014 and mid-2015, 37,800 people came to Scotland from overseas and 18,200 left Scotland to go overseas. The net gain of 19,600 in the year to mid-2015, compared to the previous year's figure of 8,000, represents an increase of 11,600 (4,600 more people came to Scotland from overseas and 7,000 fewer people left Scotland to go overseas).

Between mid-2014 and mid-2015, 47,200 people came to Scotland from the rest of the UK and 38,800 left Scotland to go in the opposite direction. The net gain of 8,400 in the year to mid-2015, compared to the previous year's gain of 9,600, represents a decrease of 1,200 (Approximately 2,100 fewer people came to Scotland from the rest of the UK and around 900 fewer people left to go in the opposite direction). The estimated reduction of 2,100 in-migrants from the rest of the UK to Scotland between the year to mid-2014 and mid-2015 is largely due to improvements in the method for estimating within UK migration. More information is available in the full Mid-2015 Population Estimates publication on the NRS website.

The number of deaths in the year to mid-2015 exceeded the number of births by approximately 2,000. The last time that deaths exceeded births in Scotland was in the year to mid-2006. In the year to mid-2014 births exceeded deaths by 3,500. The year-on-year change was driven by approximately 5,300 more deaths and 300 fewer births. Approximately half of the increase in deaths (2,600) occurred in the first quarter of 2015 (January to March).

The rise in Scotland's population in the last ten years should be seen in the context of the relative stability of the population over the last 50 years. The population last reached a peak of 5.24 million in 1974 before falling to 5.06 million in mid-2000 and then rising to a new high over the last 15 years.

**Estimated population of Scotland, 1955 to 2015**



**Link**

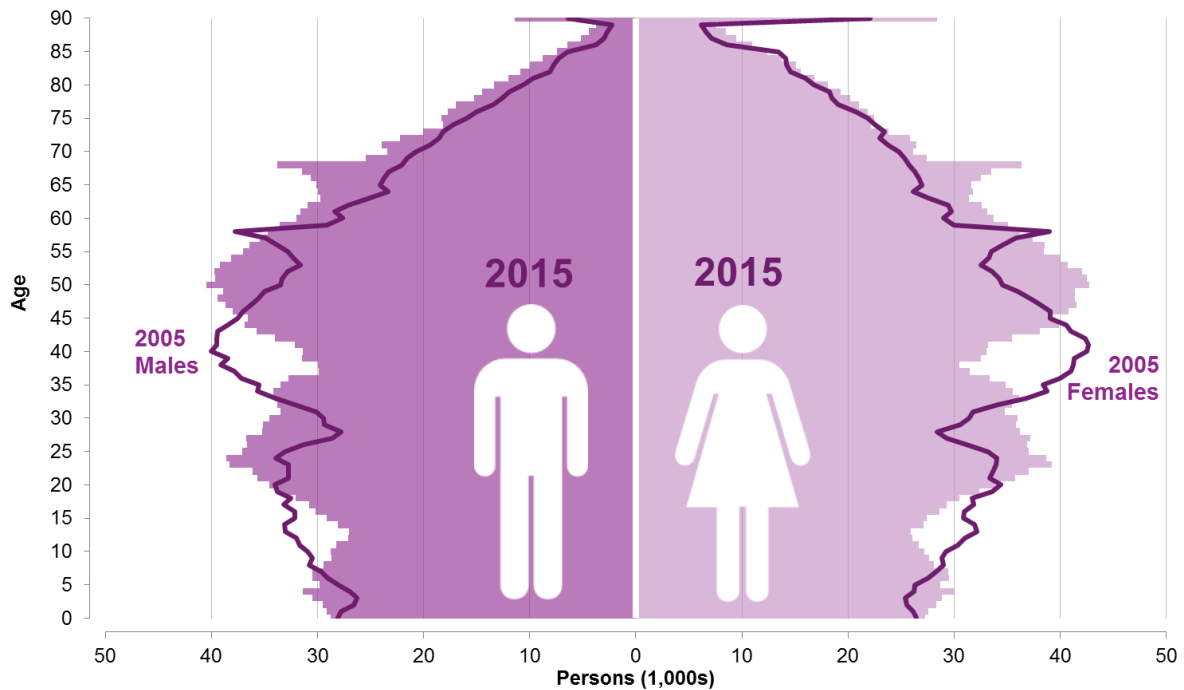
[Mid-2015 Population Estimates Scotland](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Age Structure

Last updated: April 2016

In mid-2015, 17 per cent of the population were aged under 16, 63 per cent were of working age<sup>1</sup> and the remaining 20 per cent were of pensionable age<sup>2</sup>.

### Estimated population by age and sex, mid-2005 and mid-2015

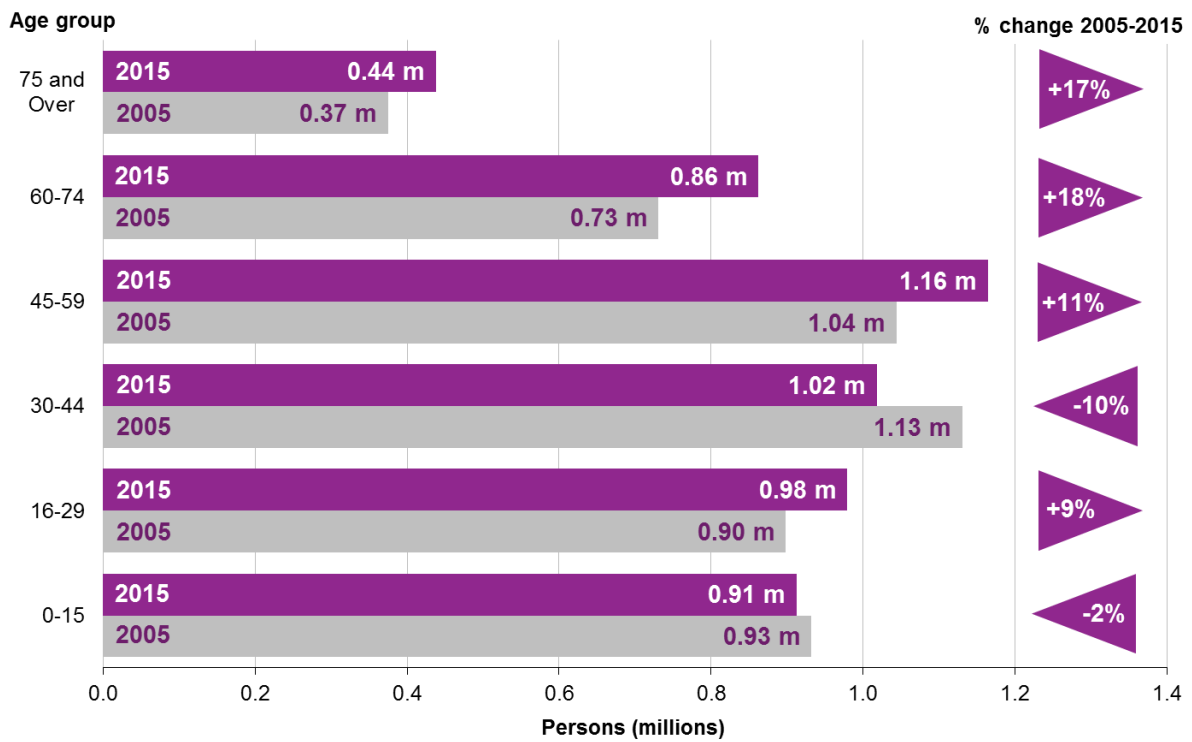


The age structure of Scotland's population is changing. Between mid-2005 and mid-2015 the population increased by 262,800 (5.1 per cent), from 5.11 million to 5.37 million. However different patterns were observed in different age groups. Of particular note is the decrease of two per cent in the number of children under 16 and the increase of 17 per cent in the number of people aged 75 and over. The ageing of the population is also evident in the rise of 11 per cent in the 45-59 age group, and of 18 per cent in the 60-74 age group.

#### Footnotes

- 1) Working age at 30 June 2015 is defined as men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to approximately 62 years and 237 days.
- 2) Based on the Pensions Act 2014, pensionable age at 30 June 2014 was 65 for men and approximately 62 years and 238 days for women.

The changing age structure of Scotland's population, mid-2005 to mid-2015



**Link**

[Mid-2015 Population Estimates Scotland](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Changes within Scotland

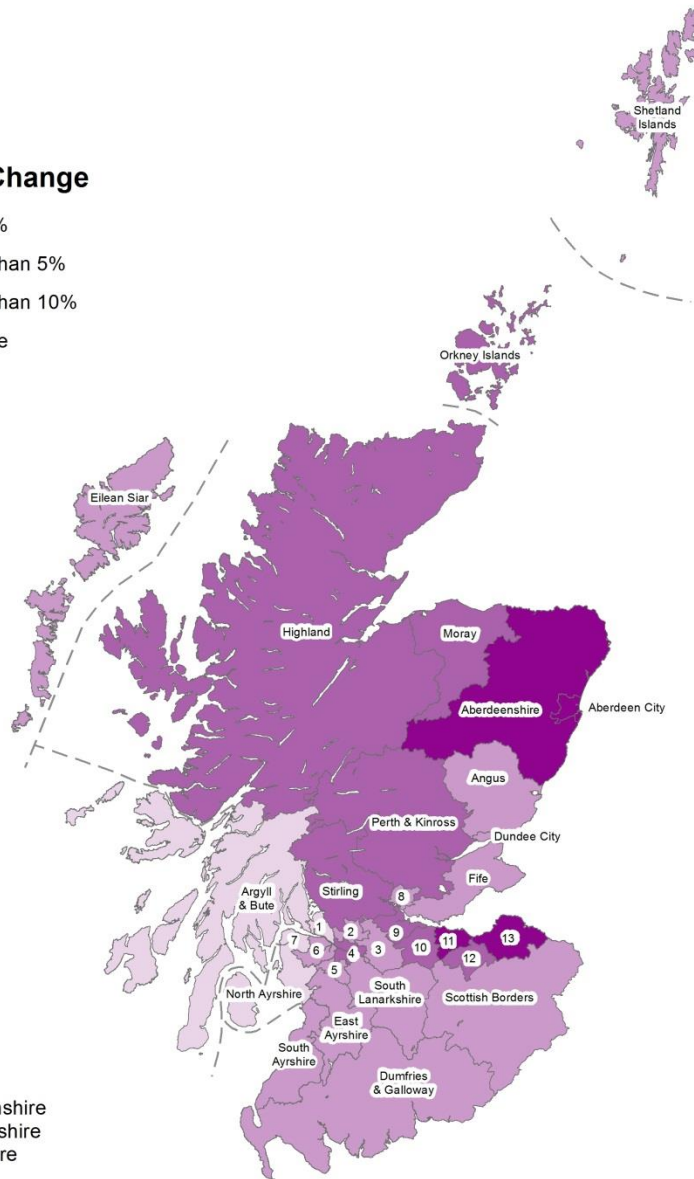
Last updated: April 2016

Between mid-2005 and mid-2015, the council areas in which the population fall was greatest were Inverclyde (-3.8 per cent), Argyll & Bute (-3.8 per cent) and West Dunbartonshire (-2.1 per cent). The largest absolute reduction in numbers was in Argyll & Bute (-3,460). Meanwhile the largest percentage population increases were in East Lothian (+11.1 per cent), City of Edinburgh (+11.0 per cent) and Aberdeen City (10.4 per cent). The largest increase in absolute numbers was in City of Edinburgh (+49,330).

Percentage population change between mid-2005 and mid-2015

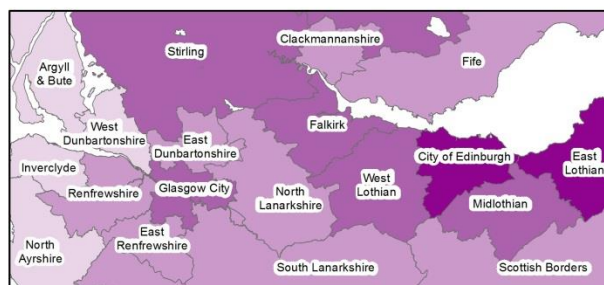
Percentage Change

-  less than 0%
-  0% to less than 5%
-  5% to less than 10%
-  10% or more



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

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Link

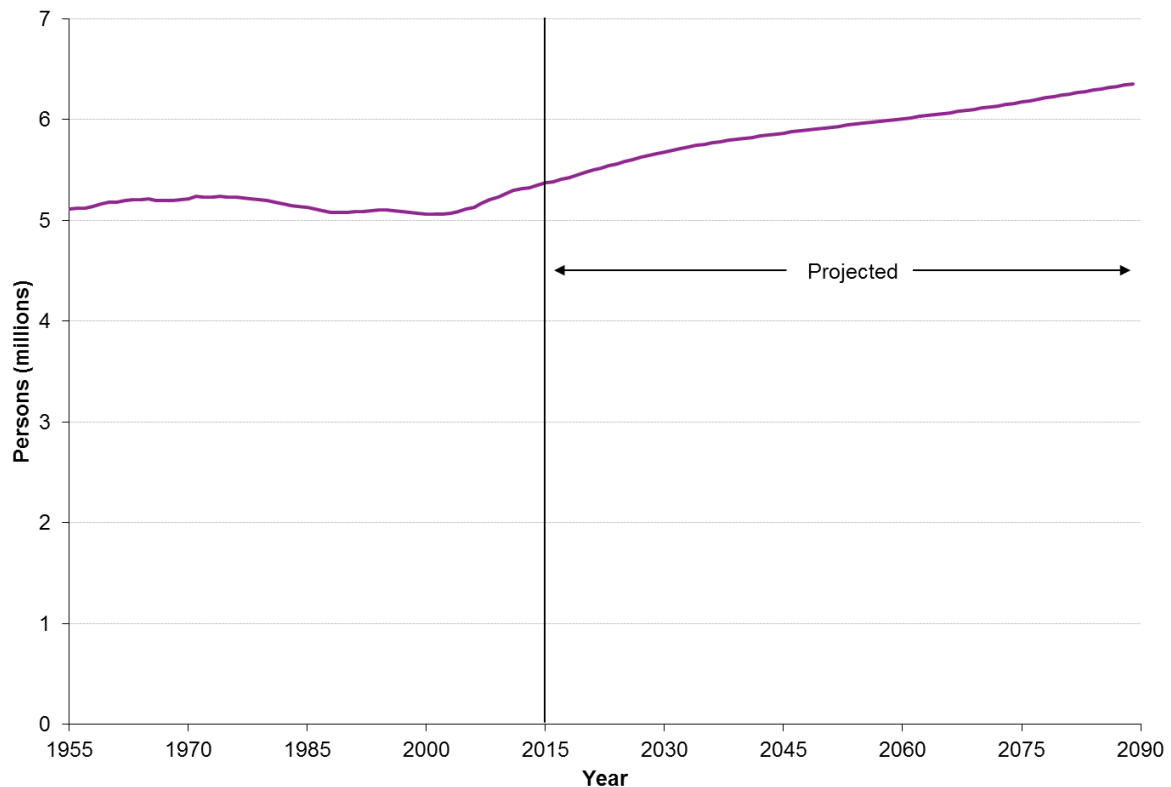
[Mid-2015 Population Estimates Scotland](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Projected Population

Last updated: April 2016

The latest population projections are based on the estimate of Scotland's population at 30 June 2014. These projections, based on existing trends and making no allowance for the future impact of government policies and other factors, show the total population of Scotland rising from 5.35 million in 2014 to 5.7 million in 2039. Longer term projections show the population continuing to rise.

### Estimated population of Scotland, actual<sup>3</sup> and projected<sup>4</sup>, 1951-2089



#### Link

[Population projections](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

#### Footnote

3) Mid-year population estimates.

4) 2014 based projections.



## Population Growth and Healthy Life Expectancy

Last updated: April 2016

The EU15 is comprised of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Over the period 1998 to 2006 the population of the EU15 grew at a higher rate than the population of Scotland. Scotland's population growth has increased and the population is at its highest ever level, between 2014 and 2015, Scotland's population grew by 0.47 per cent, whilst the population of the EU15 grew by 0.42 per cent. The Scottish Government has set a target to match average European (EU15) population growth over the period from 2007 to 2017, supported by increased healthy life expectancy in Scotland over this period.

### Annual Population Growth, EU15 and Scotland, 1998-99 to 2014-15

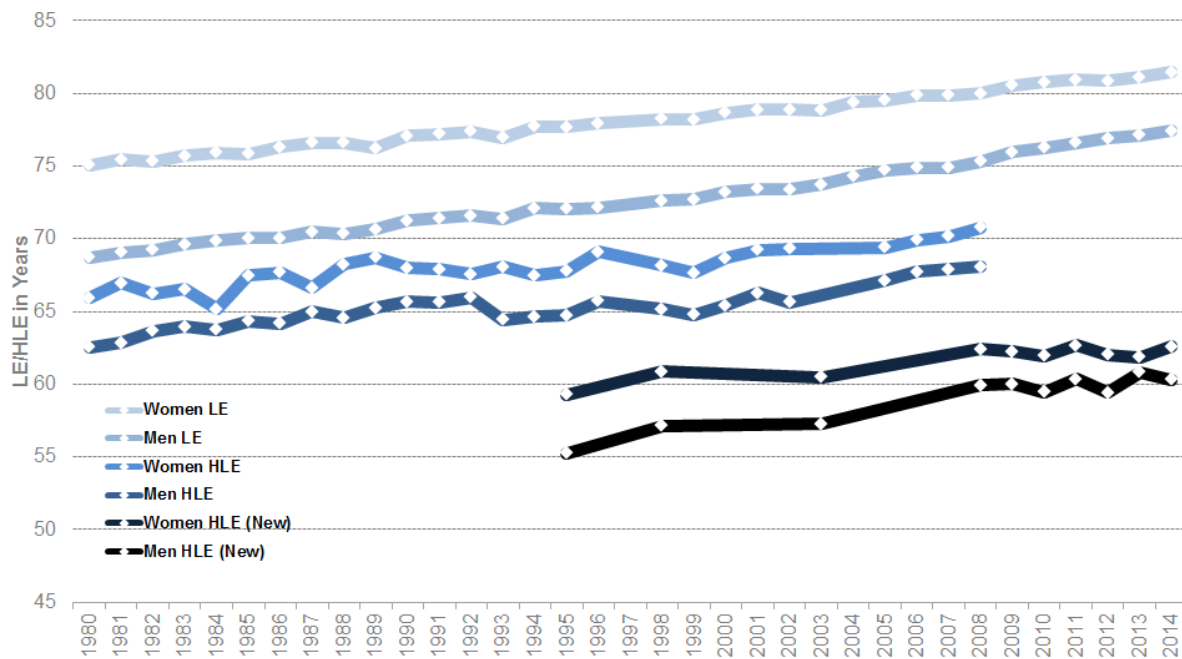


Source: Eurostat, and National Records of Scotland (NRS).

Note: EU15 population is at 1 January each year.

Levels of healthy life expectancy (HLE) for women and men have been gradually increasing since 1980. A new methodology was introduced in 2009. A partial back series calculated using the new methodology shows that levels of HLE based on the new methodology have been increasing at a similar rate to those based on the old methodology. In 2014, healthy life expectancy for men was 60.3 years, whilst for women the figure was 62.6 years. There was very little change in average levels of healthy life expectancy between 2013 and 2014, increasing from 61.3 to 61.5 years. Although female HLE increased from 61.9 to 62.6 years, male HLE declined from 60.8 to 60.3 years.

### Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth, 1980 to 2014



Source: Information Services Division (ISD) Scotland

#### Notes

More information on the change in the methodology can be found in the source publication, [Healthy Life Expectancy in Scotland](#), available on the ISD website.

Figures from 1995 to 2008 are based on the Scottish Health Survey. Data from 2009 onwards are from the Scottish Household Survey.

#### Links

[Mid-Year Population Estimates](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

[Europe in Figures](#) (Eurostat website)

[Healthy Life Expectancy in Scotland](#) (Scottish Public Health Observatory website)

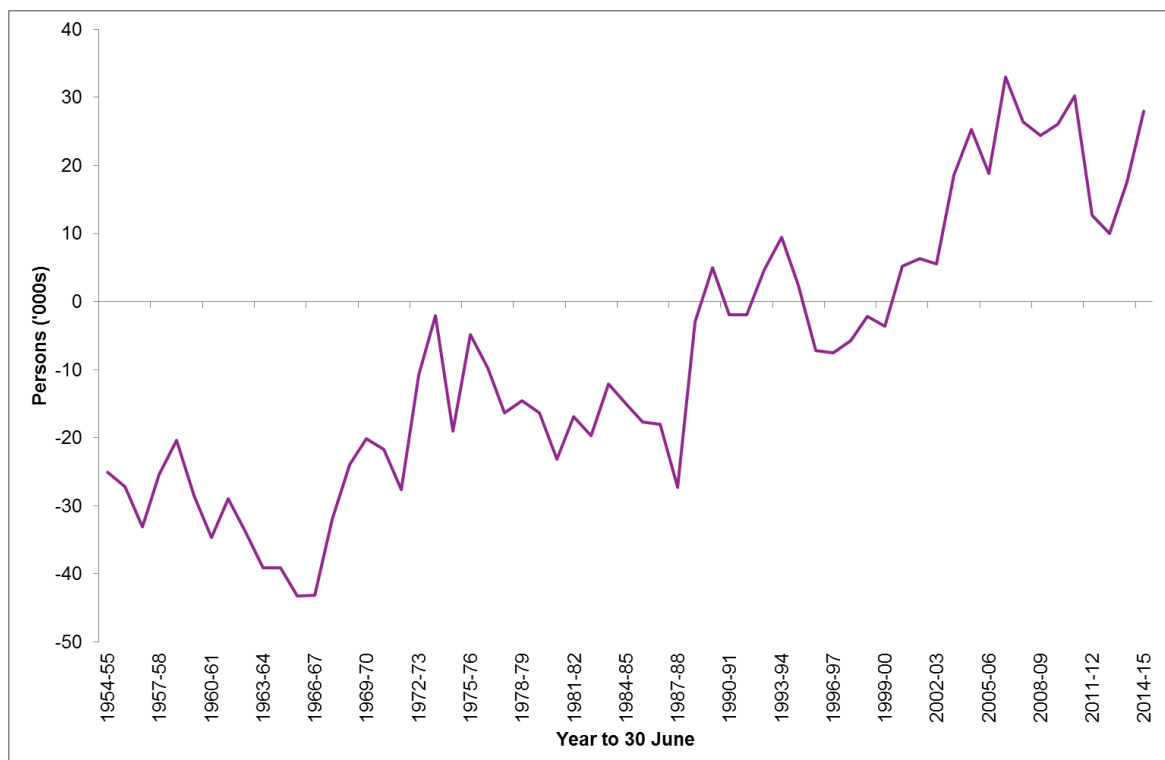
## Migration

### Trends in Migration

Last Updated: April 2016

Historically, Scotland has been a country of net out-migration, with more people leaving to live elsewhere than moving to live in Scotland. However, since the 1960s, net out-migration has greatly reduced, and from 1990 onwards Scotland has mostly experienced net migration gains. Scotland has now entered a period of net in-migration. Between 2003-04 and 2010-11, there were net gains of at least 18,600 per year. In 2006-07 the net migration gain was 33,000, the highest since these estimates started in 1951. However, in 2011-12 net migration had fallen to 12,700 and in 2012-13 net migration fell again to 10,000. In 2013-14 net migration rose to 17,600 and in 2014-15 it rose again by 10,400 to 28,000.

### Net migration, Scotland, 1955-2015



Source: National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) patient movements, Office for National Statistics Long-Term International Migration, and the National Records of Scotland rebased international migration estimates for mid-2001 to mid-2011.

Note: From the year 2001-2002 onwards, the migration estimates do not include movements to/from the Armed Forces

The rise in net migration from mid-2014 to mid-2015 is a result of more people coming to Scotland from overseas, and fewer people leaving Scotland to go to overseas and the rest of the UK. The small fall in the number of people coming to Scotland from the rest of the UK was offset by the other components of migration.

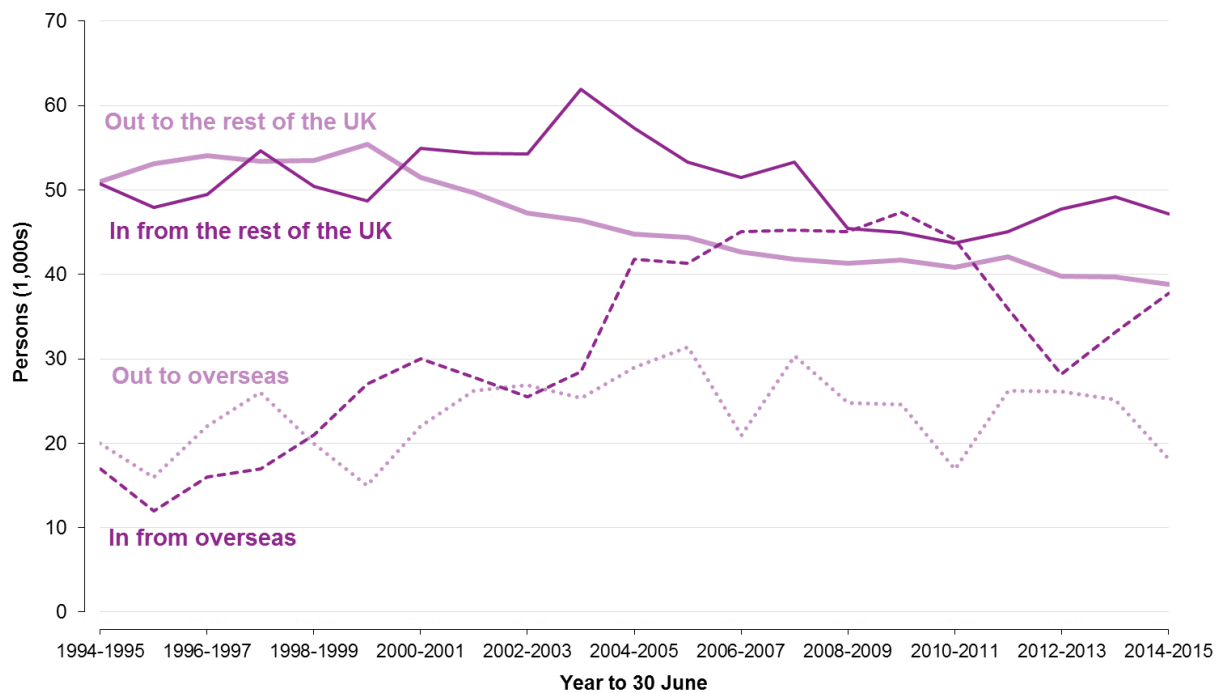
## Origin and Destination of Migrants

Last Updated: April 2016

In-migration from overseas has increased by 10,400 in 2014-15 following an increase of 5,000 in 2013-14 and drops in each of the last three years preceding that. Out-migration to overseas decreased by 7,000 to 18,200 in 2014-2015.

The number of people coming to Scotland from the rest of the UK has decreased in the last year to 47,200 following an increase in each of the previous three years, although this decrease is largely due to a change in method. More information about the change in method is available in the full Mid-2015 population estimates publication on the NRS website. The recent peak of 61,900 was recorded in 2003-04. There was a small decrease in outward migration to 38,800 in 2014-15 from the previous year's figure of 39,700.

### Migration to and from the rest of the UK and overseas, 1995 to 2015



Source: Office for National Statistics Long-Term International Migration and the National Records of Scotland rebased international migration estimates for mid-2001 to mid-2011.

#### Links

[Migration data](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

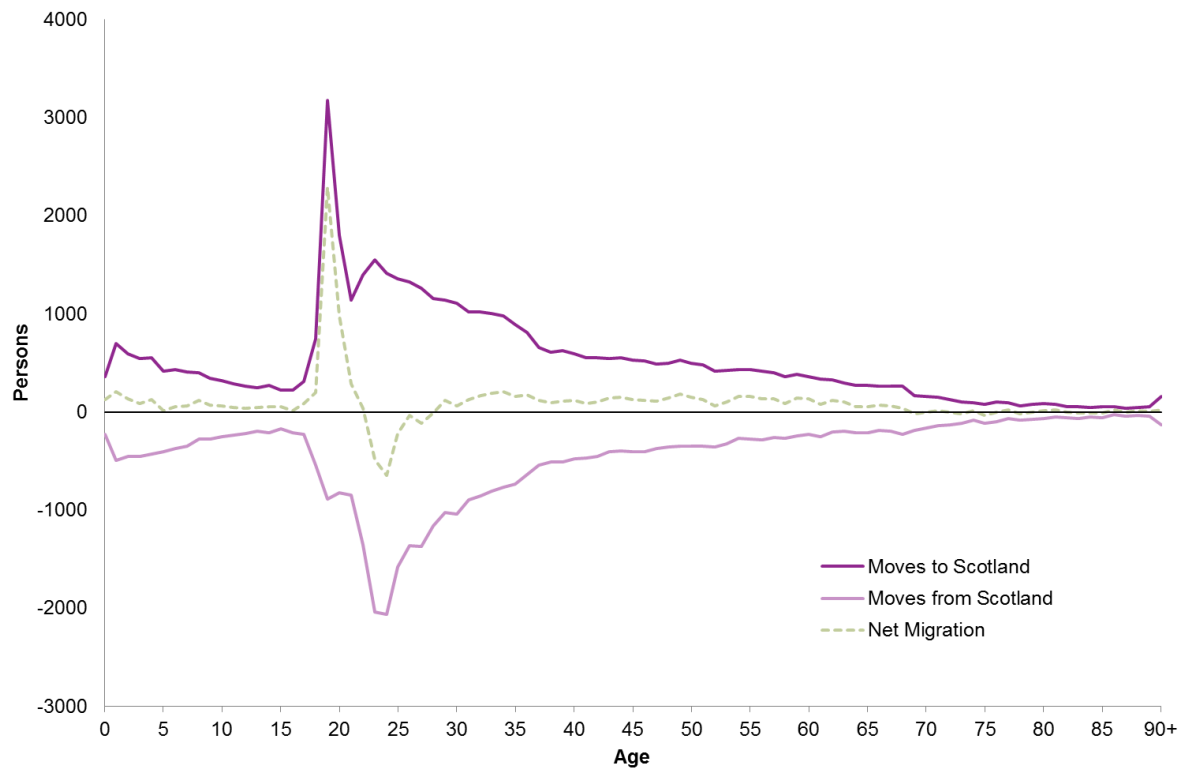
[International Migration estimates](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

### Age of Migrants

Last Updated: April 2016

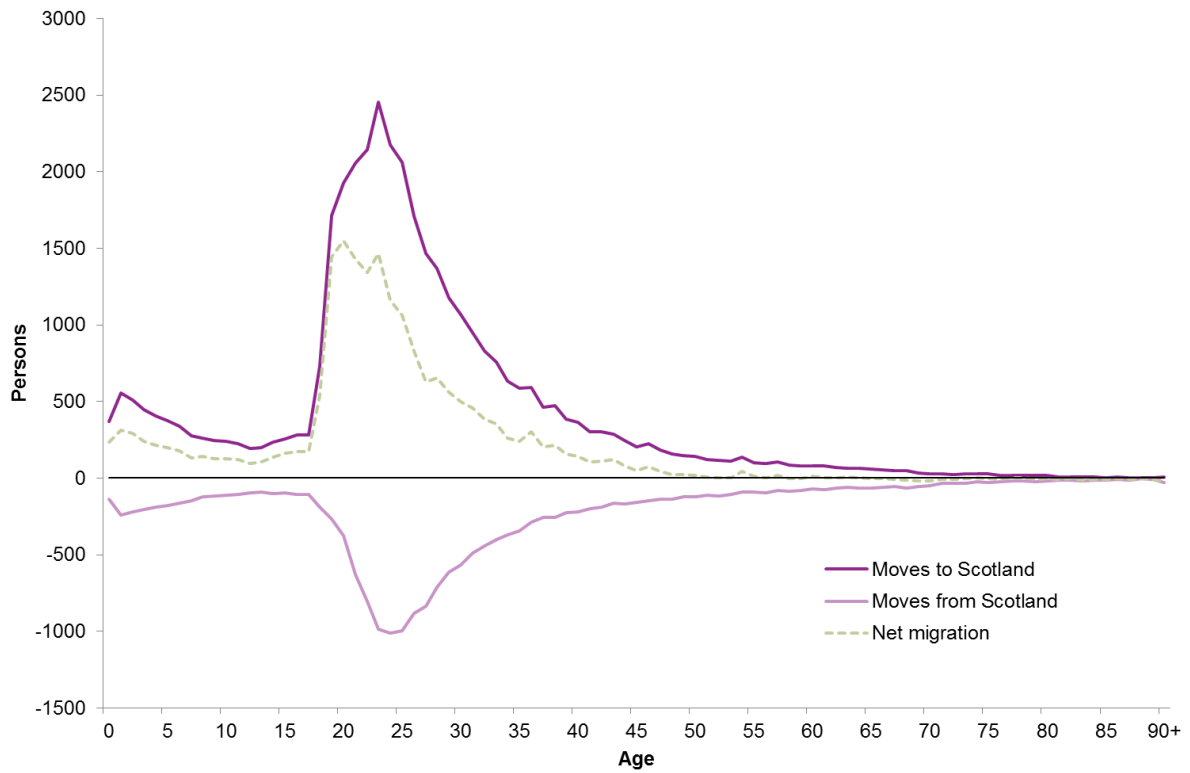
The peak age for migration into Scotland from the rest of the UK is 19, at which age there is a marked migration gain. The peak ages for migration out of Scotland to the rest of the UK are 23 and 24 and this results in a net migration loss at these ages. These large in and out flows result from an influx of students from outside Scotland starting higher education, followed by a move out of Scotland after graduation.

### Migration between Scotland and the rest of the UK, by age, mid-2014 to mid-2015



In contrast to moves to Scotland from the rest of the UK, the peak age for migration into Scotland from overseas are ages 21 to 25. The largest net migration gains are for ages 19 to 23, with net migration losses for all age groups over 65.

**Movements between Scotland and overseas, by age, mid-2014 to mid-2015**



### Migration and the distribution of people in Scotland

Last Updated: April 2016

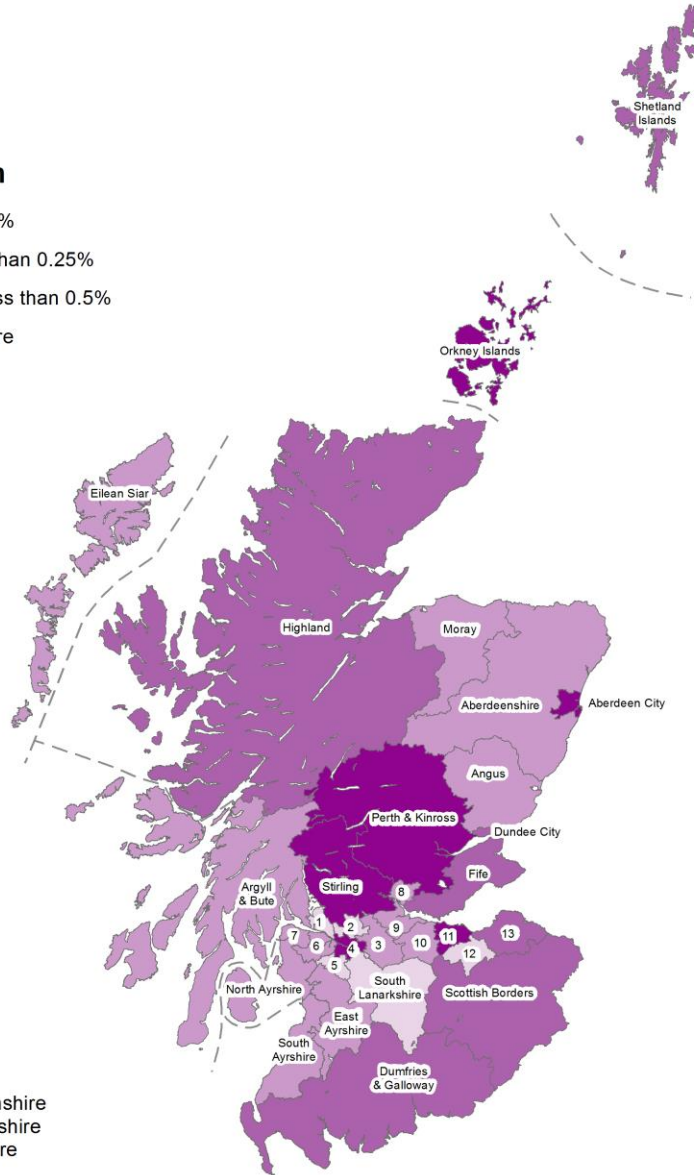
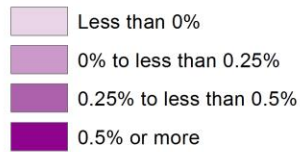
In the year to mid-2015, the highest net-migration gains from areas outside Scotland, as a proportion of the resident population, were in the City of Edinburgh, Aberdeen City and Glasgow City. The highest net -migration losses to areas outside Scotland, as a proportion of the resident population, were in East Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire. There were no net-migration losses to areas outside of Scotland higher than 0.1 per cent of the resident population.

#### Link

[Migration data](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

**Net migration with areas outside Scotland as percentage of population by Council area, mid-2014 to mid-2015**

**Net Migration**



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

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## Improvements in Migration Statistics

Last Updated: April 2016

Since the early 2000s, and especially since Eastern European Countries joined the EU in May 2004, migration has played a larger part in Scotland's demographic change than in the previous decade. So it has become more important to have high quality statistics on migration and the population, for policy development and for planning and providing public services. NRS was part of an inter-departmental effort, led by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), to improve the estimates of migration and migrant populations in the United Kingdom, both nationally and at a local level. The ONS website has more information on the Migration Statistics Improvement programme including the programme's final report.

The new information provided by the 2011 Census has allowed us to review our methodology and make improvements to elements of the rolling-forward process. Further analysis of census data, particularly relating to migration, and continuing work to incorporate new data sources, will help us to improve our methods and be confident that we continue to capture population change into the next decade and beyond.

### Link

[Migration estimate methodology](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Births

### Births in Scotland

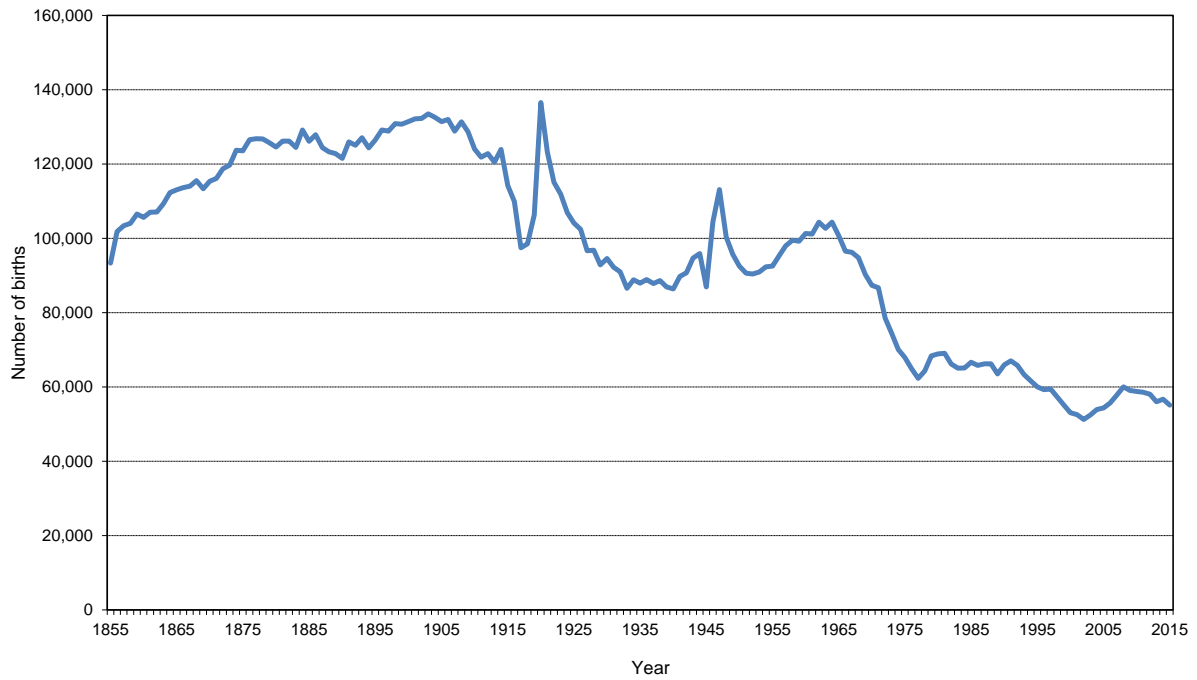
Last updated: August 2016

The number of births registered in Scotland in 2015 was 55,098: 1,627 (2.9 per cent) fewer than in 2014. There have now been decreases in the number of births in six of the seven most recent years. The total in 2015 was 4,943 (8.2 per cent) lower than the 2008 peak, and it was well below the peak of over 100,000 per year in the early 1960s, and the level of around 65-70,000 per year between the mid-1970s and the early 1990s. The proportion of births to unmarried parents (including births registered solely in the mother's name) was 51.2 per cent in 2015. The level was higher than ten years previously (47.1 per cent in 2005) and considerably higher than the 33.7 per cent in 1995, 18.5 per cent in 1985 and 9.3 per cent in 1975.

Since the mid-1970s, there has been a trend towards having children at older ages. The percentage of births to mothers aged under 20 fell from about 11 per cent (on average) between 1976 and 1980, and around eight per cent in 1991-95, to four per cent in 2015. Mothers aged 20-24 accounted for roughly a third of all births in 1976-1980, about 22 per cent in 1991-95, and 16 per cent in 2015. The percentage of births to mothers aged 25-29 has also fallen since the mid-1970s: it was around 35 per cent in 1976-1980, about 36 per cent in 1991-95, and 28 per cent in 2015. As a result, women aged over 30 accounted for over half of all births in 2015: 32 per cent were to mothers aged 30-34, 17 per cent were to 35-39 year olds and four per cent were to women aged 40 and over.

Eighty four per cent of births in 2015 were to mothers who had been born in the UK, including 75 per cent to women who were born in Scotland. A further eight per cent of mothers had been born in other European Union (EU) countries, including five per cent from the countries which joined the EU in 2004 (like Poland). Commonwealth countries were the birthplace of five per cent of mothers, including two per cent from the Indian sub-continent.

### Live births in Scotland 1855-2015



Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS) Registration data

**Link**

[More Information on Births](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Births – Variation within Scotland

Last Updated: August 2016

In 2015, the overall birth rate for Scotland was 10.3 births per 1,000 population (of both sexes and all ages). An equivalent figure can be calculated for each council area and for each NHS Board area. However, comparing the 'crude' birth rates of different areas could present a misleading picture, because of differences between them in the proportion of the population who are women of child-bearing age, and (in particular) women in the peak child-bearing ages. Therefore, the comparisons that appear below use birth rates which have been 'standardised' for differences in the age/sex-distribution of the population in each area.

Standardised rates which are based on the age/sex-distribution of the population of Scotland as a whole enable comparisons of the birth rates in different parts of Scotland with each other, and with the overall birth rate for Scotland, which are not affected by differences in their populations' age/sex-distributions. It should be noted that these are standardised versions of the overall birth rate (not rates whose denominators are the female populations of child-bearing age), and that the normal year-to-year fluctuations in the numbers of births will mean that areas with small populations may sometimes have rates that are unusually high, or unusually low.

Among the council areas, standardised birth rates in 2015 were highest in Midlothian (13.2 per 1,000 population), Aberdeenshire (12.4), Clackmannanshire (also 12.4) and Scottish Borders (12.3). Standardised birth rates in 2015 were lowest in the City of Edinburgh (7.8 per 1,000 population), Aberdeen City (8.7), Stirling (8.8), Dundee (8.9) and Glasgow City (also 8.9). There may be a tendency for the highest birth rates to be in 'rural' council areas, and the lowest birth rates to be in 'large urban' council areas.

Among the NHS Board areas, the standardised birth rates were highest in Borders (12.3) and lowest in Lothian (9.2). All the other NHS Board areas had standardised birth rates which were between 9.7 (Greater Glasgow & Clyde) and 11.6 (Shetland), and therefore not greatly different from the overall Scottish figure of 10.3 per 1,000 population.

### Link

[More Information on Births](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Births European Comparison

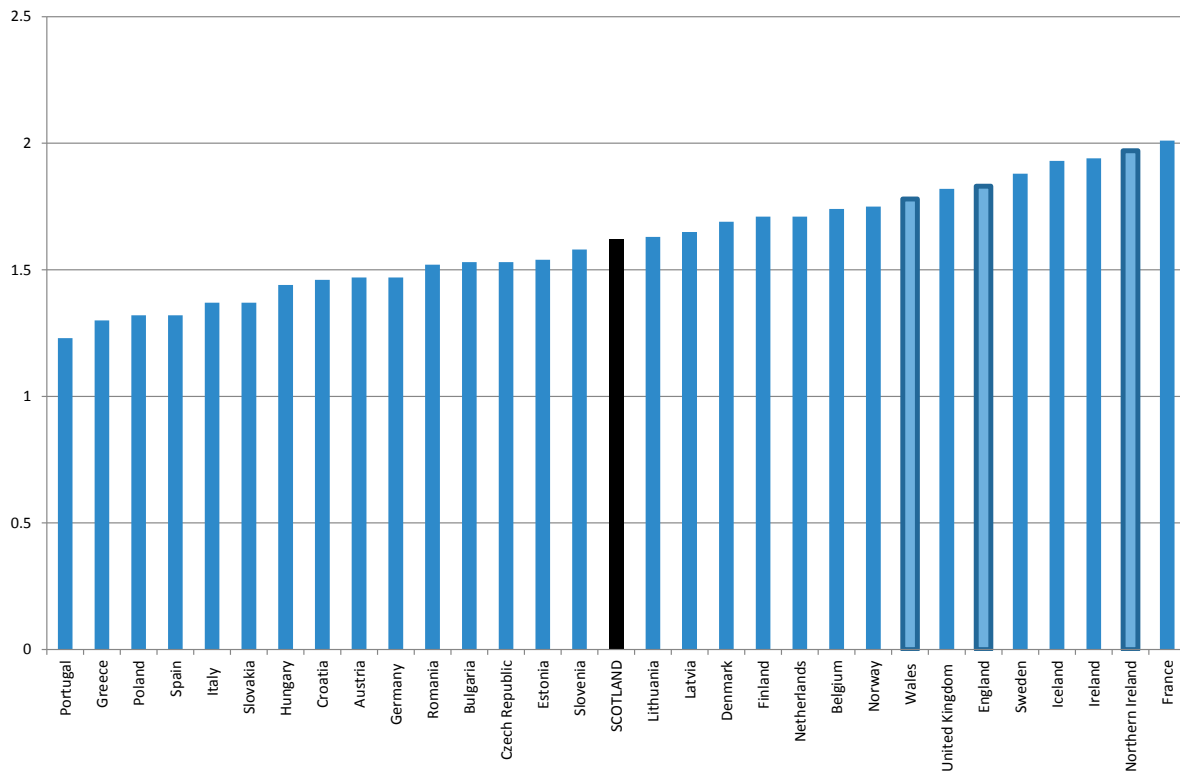
Last updated: August 2016

Scotland's overall birth rate was 10.3 per thousand population in 2015. The other figures given on this page are for 2014, because that is the latest year for which the statistics given below are readily available for a wide range of European countries.

The Scottish birth rate is lower than those of other parts of the UK: in 2014, Scotland's rate was 10.6, England's 12.1, Wales' 10.8 and Northern Ireland's 13.3.

The chart shows the value of the total fertility rate<sup>5</sup> for a wide range of European countries. In 2014, Scotland's total fertility rate (1.62) was higher than those of most of the other countries covered, such as Germany (1.47), Spain (1.32) and Italy (1.37) and was above that for the European Union (EU28) as a whole (1.58). However, Scotland's total fertility rate was below that of the UK as a whole (1.82) and some European countries, such as France (2.01), Iceland (1.93) and Sweden (1.88).

### Total Fertility Rate, Selected European Countries – 2014



Source: National Records of Scotland (NRS) and Eurostat

#### Link

[Information about other European Countries](#) (Eurostat website)

#### Footnote

5) The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is a commonly used summary measure of fertility levels calculated by summing the age-specific rates for a single year. It gives the average number of children that a group of women would expect to have if they experienced the observed age-specific fertility rates in each of their childbearing years. For a population to replace itself, the TFR needs to be around 2.1.

## Deaths

### Deaths in Scotland

Last updated: August 2016

The number of deaths registered in Scotland in 2015 was 57,579. This was 3,340 (6.2 per cent) more than in 2014. This was the largest number since 2003, when 58,472 deaths were registered in Scotland. However, it was lower than in all but one of the years before 2003, and was the thirteenth lowest total recorded since the introduction of civil registration in 1855. The lowest figure ever was 53,661 in 2011.

In 2015, just under half of all deaths were due to the so-called 'three big killers':

- cancer - 16,093 deaths, 28 per cent of all deaths;
- ischaemic (coronary) heart disease - 7,142 deaths, 12 per cent; and
- cerebrovascular disease - 4,303 deaths, seven per cent.

The types of cancer with the largest numbers of deaths included cancers of the trachea, bronchus and lung (4,047 deaths), bowel cancer (1,601 deaths), cancers of the lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissue (1,149 deaths), breast cancer (992 deaths), prostate cancer (986 deaths) and cancers of the oesophagus (816 deaths).

Since 1980, the total number of deaths from the so-called 'three big killers' has reduced, falling from 65 per cent of all deaths during 1980-82 and 1990-92, to 58 per cent during 2000-02 and to 48 per cent in 2015. The proportion of deaths caused by coronary heart disease has fallen from 29 per cent in 1980-82 to 12 per cent in 2015, and by cerebrovascular disease from 14 per cent to seven per cent. However, the number of deaths from cancer rose by 16 per cent (from an average of 13,903 per year in 1980-1982 to 16,093 in 2015); as a proportion of all deaths, it increased from 22 per cent to 28 per cent (mainly due to the 10 per cent fall in the total number of deaths from all causes, from 64,050 per year in 1980-82 to 57,579 in 2015).

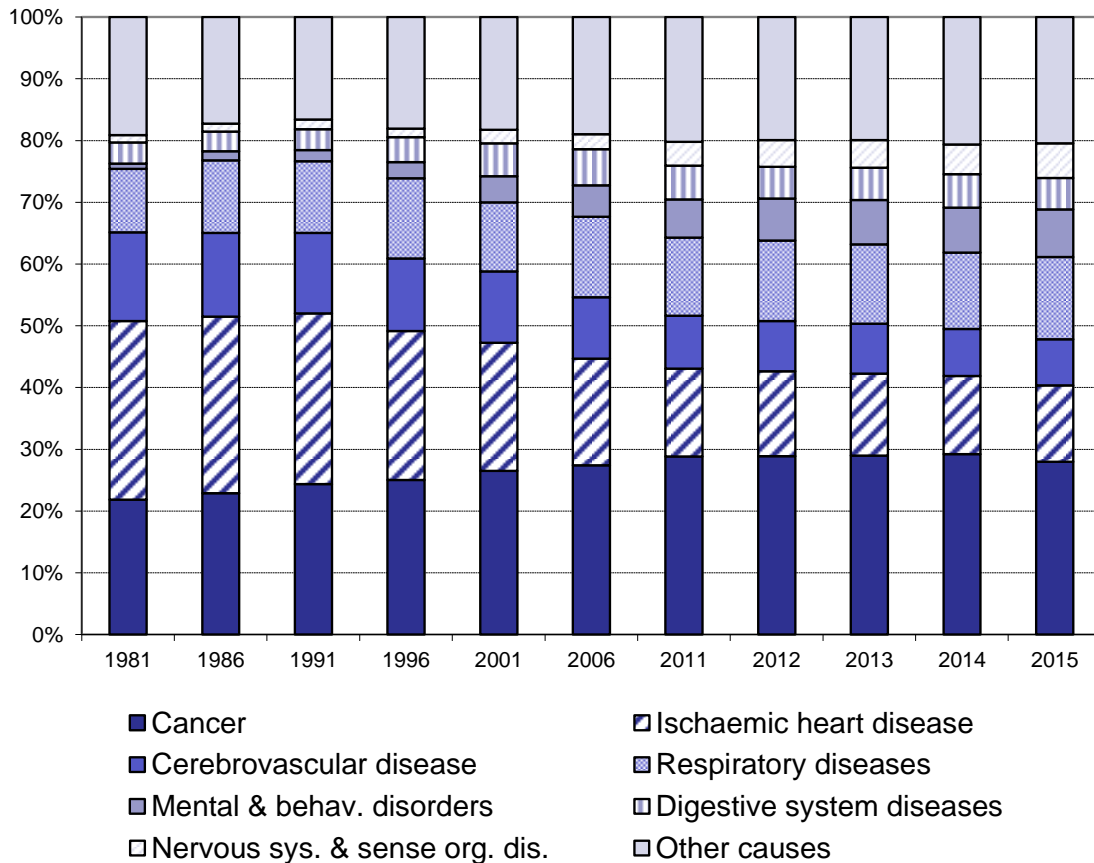
Other major causes of deaths registered in 2015 included:

- respiratory system diseases (e.g. pneumonia or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) 7,669 deaths, or 13 per cent of all deaths;
- mental and behavioural disorders (e.g. dementia) 4,427 deaths, or eight per cent;
- diseases of the circulatory system other than coronary heart disease and cerebrovascular disease (e.g. other forms of heart disease) 4,323 deaths, or eight per cent;
- diseases of the nervous system and the sense organs (e.g. Alzheimer's disease) 3,228 deaths, or six per cent;
- diseases of the digestive system (e.g. chronic liver disease) 2,926 deaths, or five per cent;
- accidents (e.g. falls, transport accidents) 1,892 deaths, or three per cent;
- diseases of the genitourinary system (e.g. renal failure) 1,211 deaths, or two per cent;

- endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (e.g. diabetes) 1,066 deaths, or two per cent; and
- certain infectious and parasitic diseases (e.g. septicaemia) 755 deaths, or one per cent.

There were 175 deaths of infants (children aged under one) in 2015.

### Causes of death in Scotland



Source: NRS Registration data

#### Links

[More information about Deaths](#) (National Records of Scotland (NRS) website)

[Death Certificates and Coding the Causes of Death](#) (NRS website)

## Deaths – Variation within Scotland

Last Updated: August 2016

In 2015, the overall death rate for Scotland was 10.7 deaths per 1,000 population. An equivalent figure can be calculated for each council area and for each NHS Board area. However, comparing the 'crude' death rates of different areas could present a misleading picture, because of differences between their populations' age-structures and their balances between the sexes. Therefore, the comparisons that appear below use death rates which have been 'standardised' for differences in the age/sex-distribution of the population in each area.

Standardised rates which are based on the age/sex-distribution of the population of Scotland as a whole enable comparisons of the death rates in different parts of Scotland with each other, and with the overall death rate for Scotland, which are not affected by differences in their populations' age/sex-distributions. However, it should be noted that the normal year-to-year fluctuations in the numbers of deaths will mean that areas with small populations may sometimes have rates that are unusually high, or unusually low.

Among the council areas, standardised death rates in 2015 were highest in Glasgow (13.4 per 1,000 population), West Dunbartonshire (12.7), North Lanarkshire (12.4), Dundee City (11.9), Inverclyde (11.8) and North Ayrshire (11.7). Standardised death rates in 2015 were lowest in East Dunbartonshire (8.4 per 1,000 population), East Renfrewshire (8.6), Orkney Islands (8.7) and Perth and Kinross (9.0).

Among the NHS Board areas, the standardised death rate was highest in Greater Glasgow and Clyde (11.8) and Lanarkshire (11.7), and lowest in Orkney (8.7). All the other NHS Board areas had standardised death rates which were between 9.8 (Western Isles) and 11.2 (Ayrshire & Arran) per 1,000 population, and therefore did not differ greatly from the overall Scottish figure of 10.7 per 1,000 population.

### Link

[More Information about Deaths](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

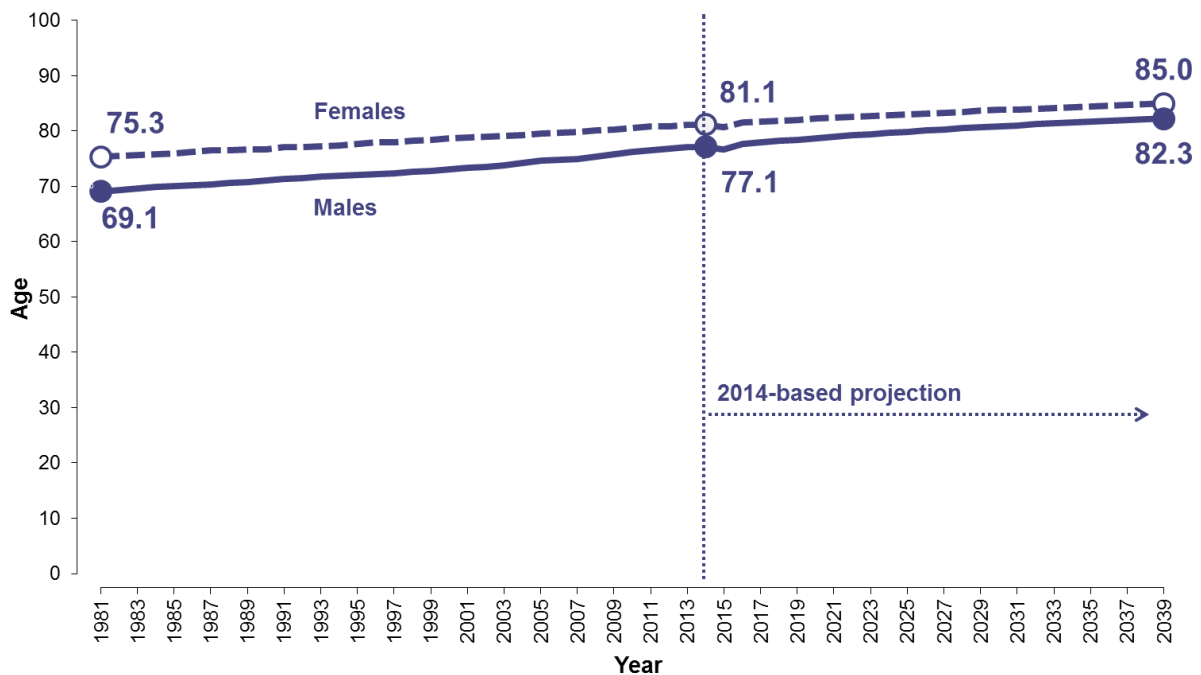


## Life Expectancy in Scotland

Last Updated: August 2016

The expectation of life at birth is a commonly used measure of mortality which is particularly helpful in comparing the 'health' of a nation over time and for making comparisons with other countries as well as for areas within Scotland. The expectation of life at birth in Scotland has improved over the last 33 years, increasing from 69.1 years for males and 75.3 years for females born around 1981 to 77.1 years and 81.1 years respectively for those born around 2014. The recent improvements in life expectancy at birth are projected to continue, rising to 82.3 years for males and 85.0 years for females by 2039.

### Expectation of life at birth, Scotland, 1981-2039



Figures to 2014 are based on three years of data. For example, the 2014 figure uses data for 2013-2015.

Source: Figures to 2014 from National Life Tables, Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Figures from 2015 onwards are projected single year-of-age life expectancies, ONS.

#### Link

[Life Expectancy at Scotland Level](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Life Expectancy UK and European Comparison

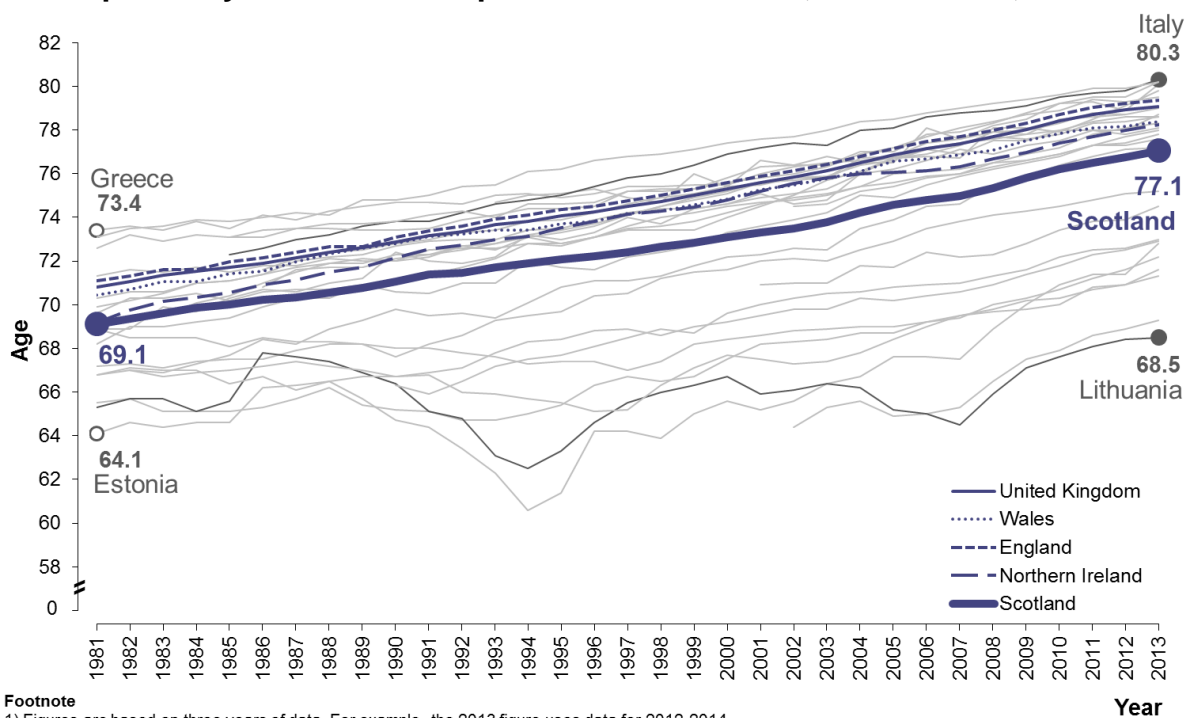
Last updated: August 2016

Although male and female life expectancy continues to increase in Scotland, it is still below the UK average, which was 79.1 years for males and 82.8 years for females in 2012- 2014. It is also lower when compared with the other countries within the UK. Males in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can expect to outlive males in Scotland by around 2.3 years, 1.3 years and 1.2 years respectively. Females in England, Wales and Northern Ireland have a life expectancy which is longer by 1.9 years, 1.2 years and 1.1 years respectively than that of females in Scotland.

For males, the gap between Scotland and the country with the highest life expectancy in the EU-28 has narrowed over the past 32 years. In 1980-82 the gap between Greece (highest at the time) and Scotland was 4.3 years while in 2012-14 the gap between Italy (current highest) and Scotland is 3.2 years. Over the same period, the gap between Scotland and the country with the lowest male life expectancy has widened. In 1980-82 the gap between Scotland and Estonia was 5 years while in 2012-14 the gap between Scotland and Lithuania is 8.6 years.

On the other hand, for females the gap between Scotland and the country with the highest life expectancy in the EU-28 has become wider over this period. In 1980-1982 the gap between Sweden and Scotland was 4.0 years while in 2012-14 the gap between Spain and Scotland is 5.0 years. Meanwhile the gap between Scotland and the country with the lowest female life expectancy has narrowed slightly. In 1980-1982 the gap between Scotland and Romania was 2.9 years while in 2012-14 the gap between Scotland and Bulgaria is 2.5 years.

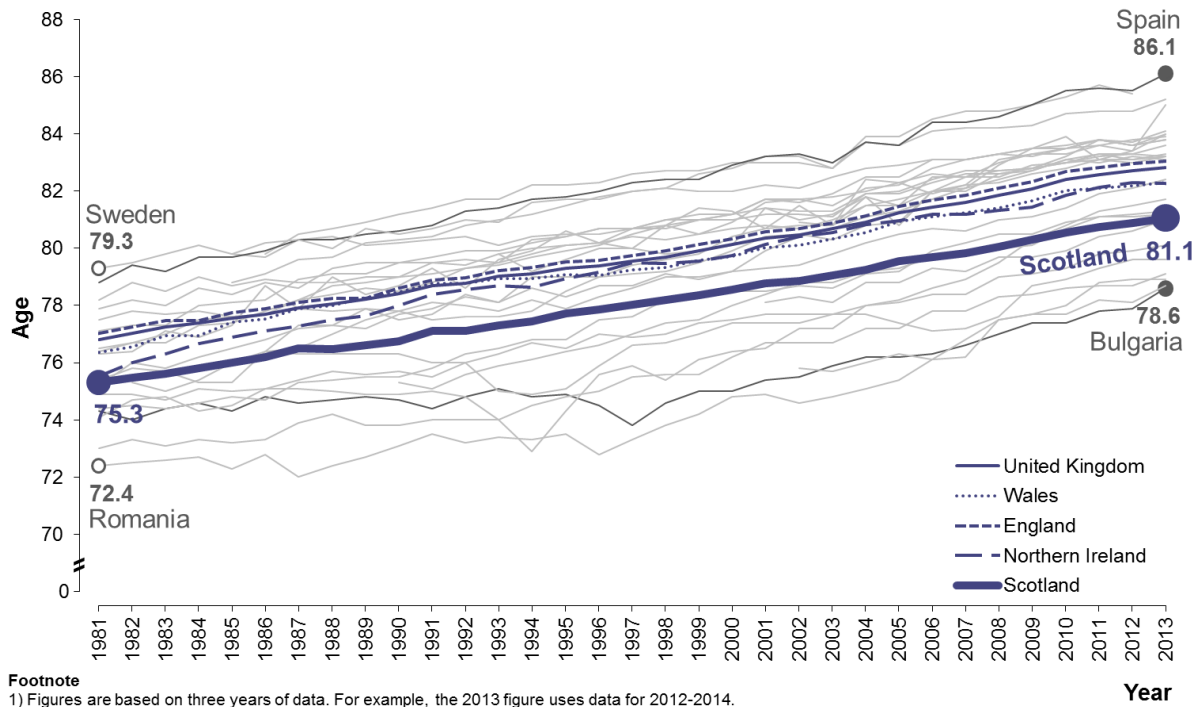
### Life expectancy at birth in European Union countries, 1981 to 2013, Males



**Footnote**

1) Figures are based on three years of data. For example, the 2013 figure uses data for 2012-2014.  
Source: Office for National Statistics and Eurostat (tps00025). Note: The scale differs from the corresponding female figure.

Life expectancy at birth in European Union countries, 1981 to 2013, Females



Footnote

1) Figures are based on three years of data. For example, the 2013 figure uses data for 2012-2014.  
Source: Office for National Statistics and Eurostat (tps00025). Note: The scale differs from the corresponding male figure.

Source: Eurostat and ONS

Link

[European Mortality](#) (Eurostat website)

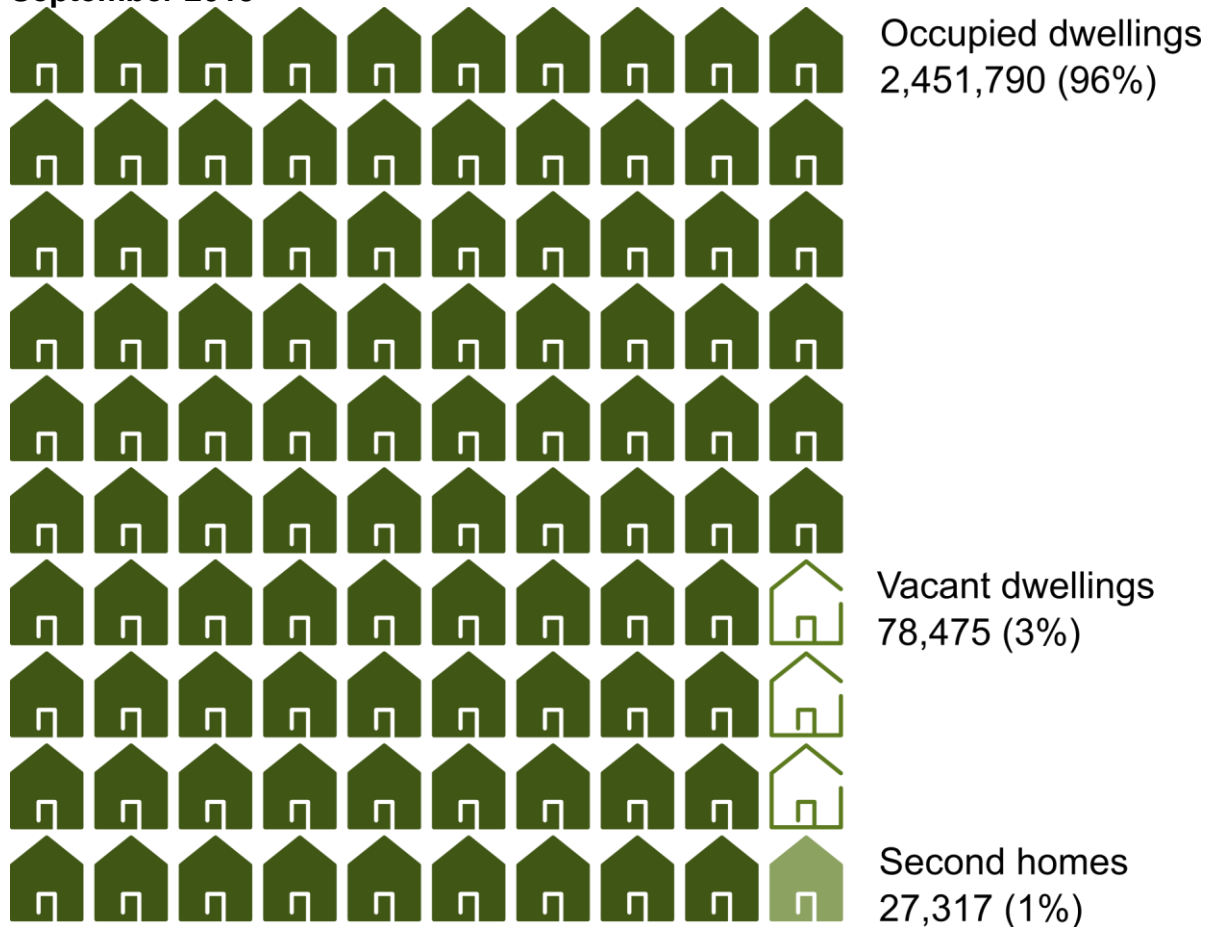
## Households

### Households and Housing

Last Updated: June 2016

In 2015, there were 2.43 million households and 2.56 million dwellings in Scotland. Ninety-six per cent of dwellings were occupied (refer to the figure below), while 78,500 dwellings were vacant and 27,300 dwellings were second homes.

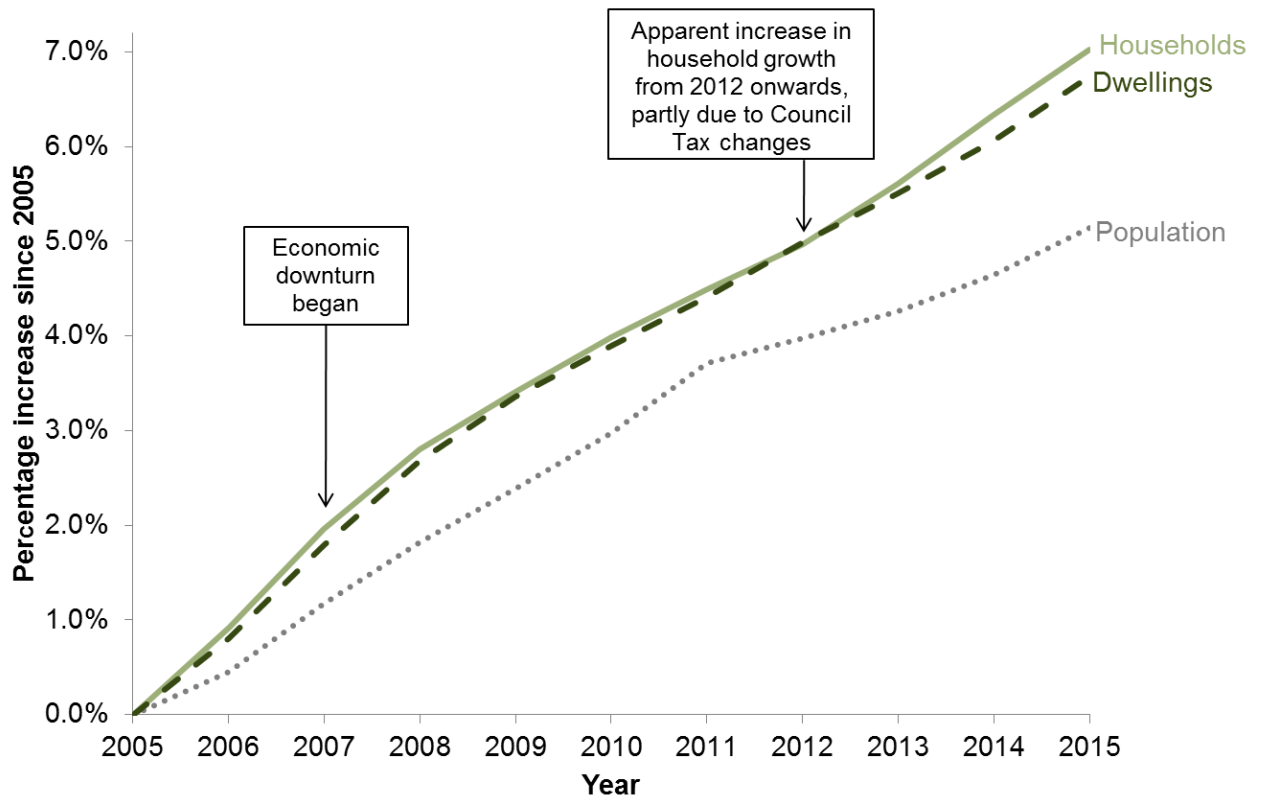
#### Proportion of dwellings which are occupied, vacant and second homes, September 2015



Source: NRS Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland, 2015

Over the last 10 years, the number of households has increased by around 160,000 (seven per cent, refer to the figure below). The number of households has increased in every council area, and the increase in the number of households ranged from one per cent in Inverclyde, to 14 per cent in the Orkney Islands. Over the same period, the number of dwellings has risen by 161,000 (seven per cent, refer to the figure below). The number of dwellings has risen in all council areas except for Inverclyde, which has seen a 1.5 per cent decrease in dwellings.

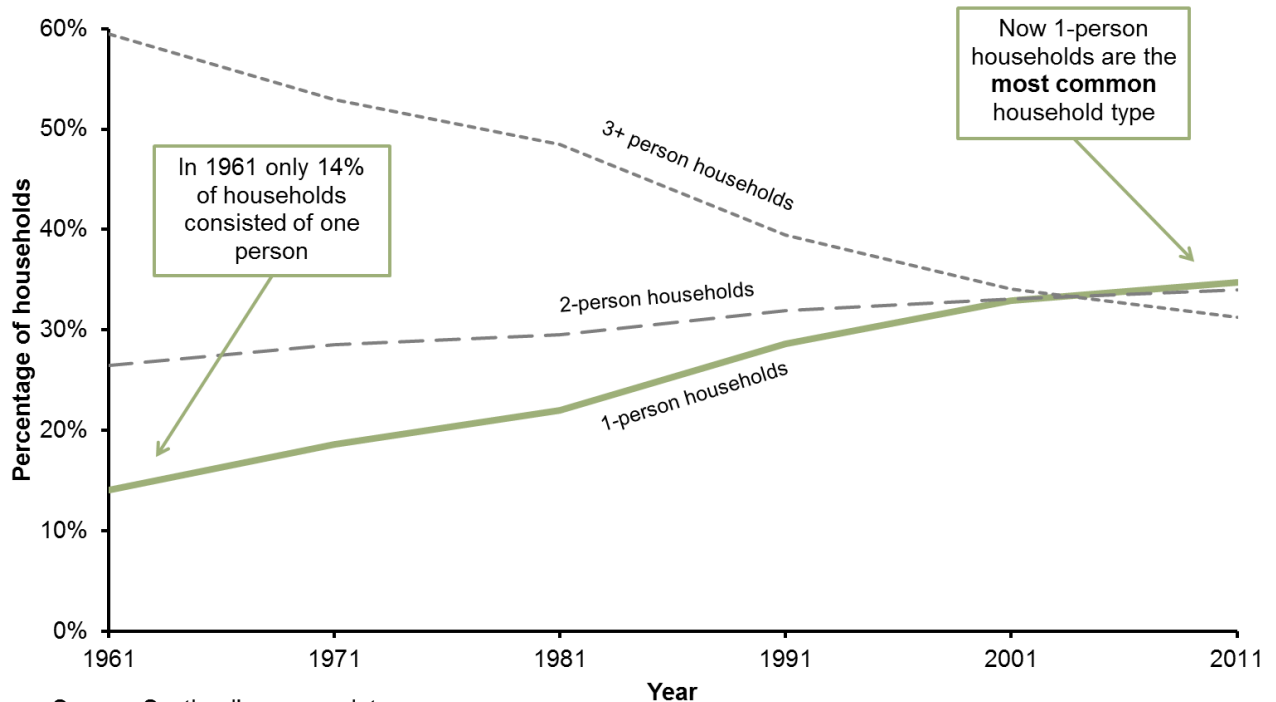
Trends in households, dwellings and population, June 2005 to 2015



Source: NRS Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland, NRS Mid-Year Population estimates

The number of households rose faster than the population (refer to the figure above). This is because people are increasingly living alone or in smaller households. This is partly due to changes in the way we live, and partly because Scotland's population is ageing, as older people are more likely to live alone or in smaller households. Over the last 50 years, one-person households have gone from being the least prevalent household type, to the most prevalent type, according to the census (refer to the figure below).

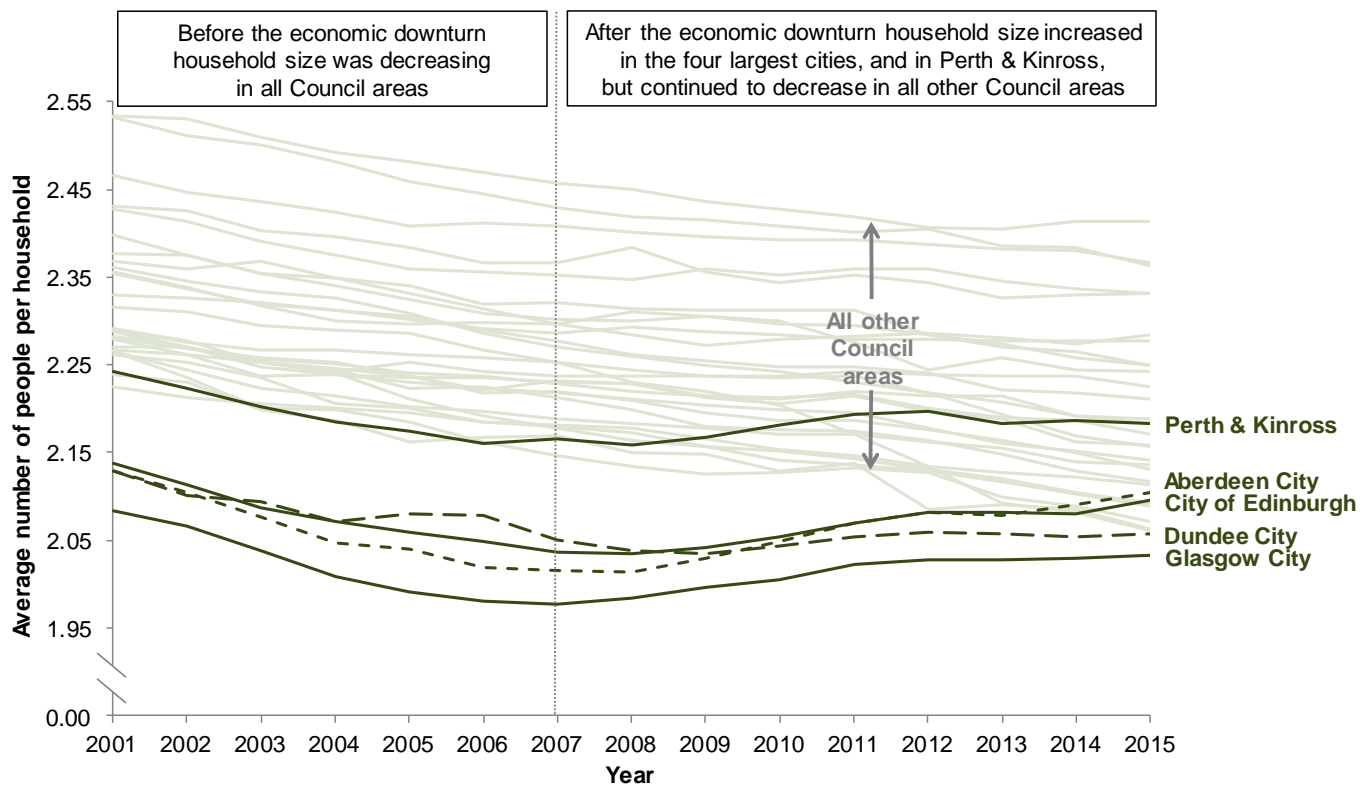
Change in household type in Scotland, 1961 to 2011



Average household size has fallen from 2.21 people per household in 2005 to 2.17 in 2015 in Scotland as a whole. However, the decline in average household size in Scotland is slowing, and average household sizes have been rising in the four city council areas of Aberdeen City, Dundee City, City of Edinburgh and Glasgow City, and in Perth and Kinross, since the onset of the economic downturn in 2007/8 (refer to the figure below).

The economic downturn has had an impact on the formation of new households. Levels of house-building fell markedly and there have been changes in the living arrangements of young adults, with more young adults living with their parents or renting rather than buying a home. This is linked to the affordability of home ownership. This will have contributed to the slowing of the decline in average household size, which means that household numbers have been increasing more slowly. It remains to be seen if this is a temporary effect or longer lasting.

**Average household size in each Council area, June 2001 to 2015**



Remote rural areas continue to have the highest percentage of dwellings that are either vacant or second homes (5.2 and 7.0 per cent respectively, compared to 3.1 and 0.5 per cent in large urban areas). The council areas with the highest percentage of dwellings that are vacant are the Orkney Islands (6.6 per cent), Na h-Eileanan Siar (6.3 per cent) and the Shetland Islands (6.1 per cent). Argyll and Bute is the council area with the highest percentage of second homes (7.2 per cent) followed by Na h-Eileanan Siar (5.1 per cent), Highland (3.6 per cent) and the Orkney Islands (3.6 per cent).

**Link**  
[Household estimates and projections](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## Household Projections

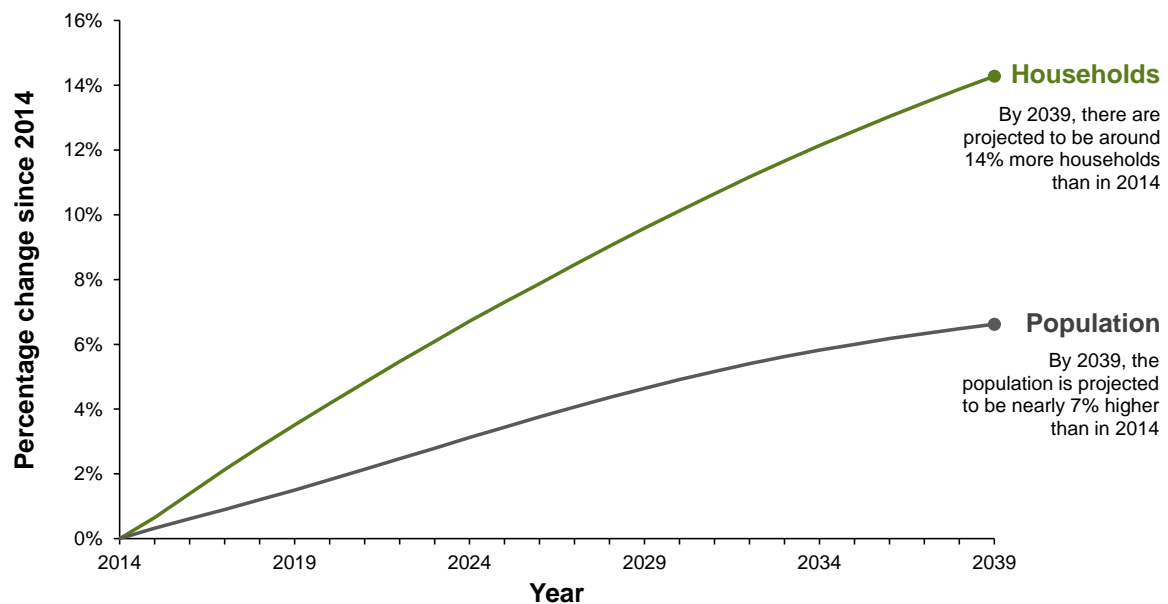
Last Updated: January 2017

By 2039, the number of households in Scotland is projected to increase by 14 per cent to 2.76 million – an average annual increase of about 13,800 households. Over the same period, Scotland’s population is projected to increase by seven per cent.

This rise in population explains some of the increase in household numbers over the projection period. However, the household projections increase by a larger percentage than the population projections. This is the result of more people living alone or in smaller households.

Scotland’s population is also ageing. The number of people aged 65 or over is increasing much faster than the number of children and younger adults. This has an impact on household structure as children tend to live in larger households and older people in smaller ones.

### Projected change in number of households and population in Scotland 2014 to 2039



Source: Household and Population Projections for Scotland, National Records of Scotland (NRS), 2014-based

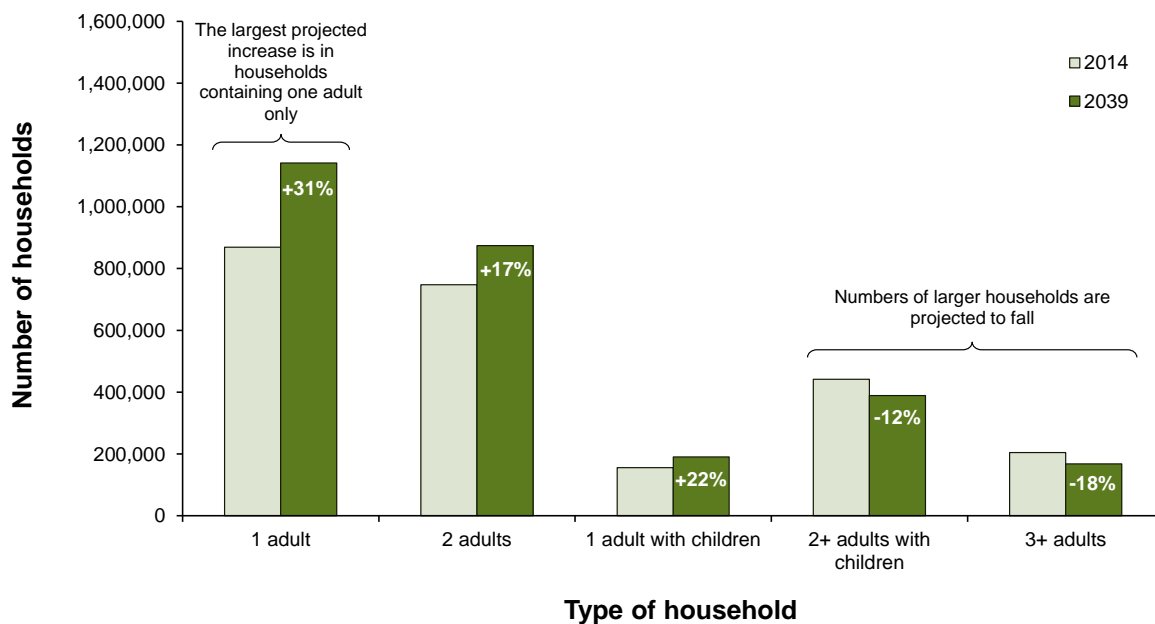


## Household type

The chart below shows the numbers of households of each type in 2014 and the projected number in 2039. There is a projected increase in households containing just one adult (an increase of under a third) with nearly a quarter of people aged 16 or over projected to live alone by 2039.

There are also smaller projected increases in households with two adults (an increase of almost a fifth), and households with one adult with children (an increase of almost a quarter). In contrast, the number of larger households is projected to fall, with households containing two or more adults with children, or three or more adults, projected to decrease by over an eighth.

**Projected number of households in Scotland by household type: 2014 and 2039**



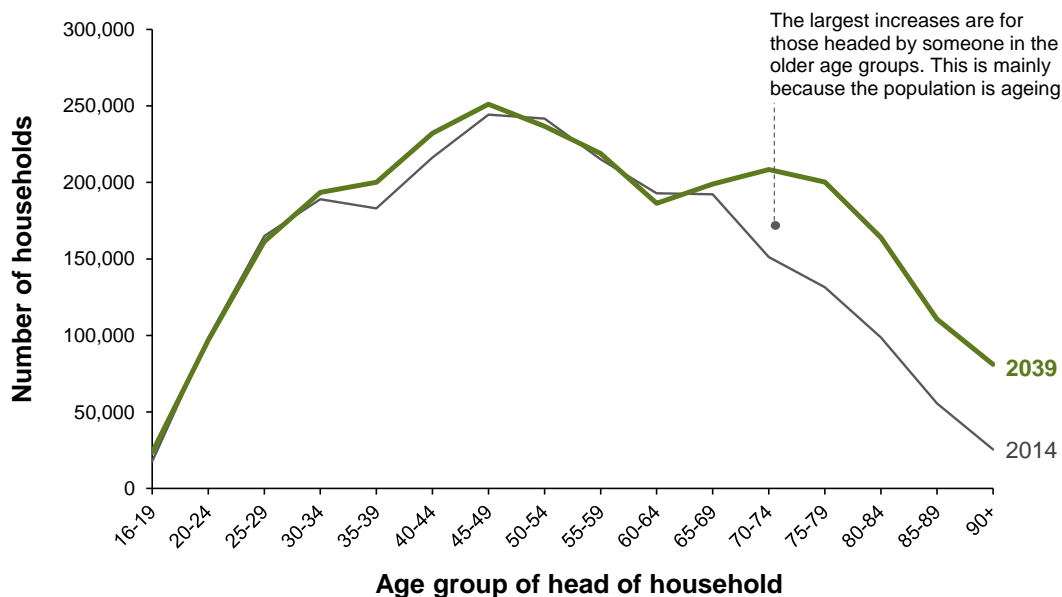
Source: Household Projections for Scotland, National Records of Scotland (NRS), 2014-based

## Age group

The chart below shows the number of households in 2014 and the projected number in 2039, by the age of the head of household. Scotland's population is ageing, with a projected increase in the number of people in the older age groups. This trend is reflected in the household projections, with the greatest increases shown in households headed by people aged 65 or over (an increase of over a half, from 654,700 to 963,400 households, between 2014 and 2039). The number of households headed by someone aged 85 or over is projected to more than double from 81,000 to over 191,800.

The number of households headed by someone under 65 is also projected to increase, but much more slowly than households headed by older people. By 2039, numbers of such households are projected to increase by just two per cent, to around 1.80 million

**Projected number of households in Scotland by age of head of household, 2014 and 2039**



Source: Household Projections for Scotland, National Records of Scotland (NRS), 2014-based

**Link**

[Household estimates and projections](#) (National Records of Scotland website)

## **The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends**

The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends is published in July or August of each year. The report provides a summary of the main demographic trends in the previous calendar year. It also includes a 'specialised' chapter which focuses on a particular topic of interest.

### **Publications available on the National Records of Scotland website**

[Registrar General's Annual Review](#)

[Population Estimates Statistics](#)

[Population Projections](#)

[Occasional paper on Migration from the 2001 Census](#)

[Household Estimates and Projections](#)

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