

In Scotland the number of households is increasing

In 2017, there were 2.46 million households in Scotland, an increase of around 269,000 households (12%) over the last 16 years.

The growth in households is due to the increasing population, the increasing number of dwellings, and decreasing number of people per household on average.

The number of households has risen faster than the population

Over the last 16 years the number of households increased by 12%, and the population increased by 7%.

This is because of changes in the way people are living. The average number of people per household has fallen, as people increasingly live alone or in smaller households.

People are increasingly living alone or in smaller households

One person households are now the most common type of household in Scotland. In 2016 more than 900,000 people were living alone. Together they represented over one third of households.

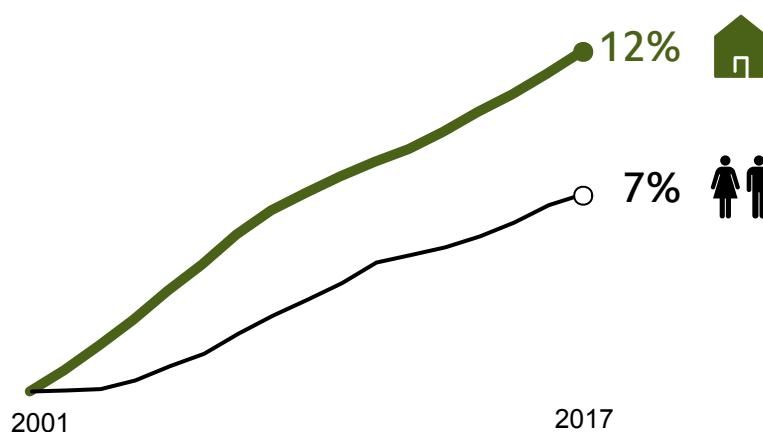
This is partly because Scotland's population is ageing, as older people are more likely to live alone or in smaller households.

Number of households



A household is defined as one person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address

Percentage change



Number of households



Two or more person households could contain adults, or both adults and children



Ninety-six per cent of homes are occupied

There were 2.60 million dwellings in Scotland in 2017. Overall, three per cent were empty and one per cent were second homes.

Empty and second homes were not spread evenly across the country. For example, remote rural areas had the highest percentage of dwellings that were vacant or second homes.

The level of household growth varies across Scotland's council areas

The number of households in Scotland has increased by 6.2% over the last ten years. Numbers have increased in every council area. The areas with the greatest relative increase in households have been Midlothian and the Orkney Islands. The smallest increases have occurred in Inverclyde and Argyll and Bute.

There is more information on Scotland's council areas in the interactive data visualisation accompanying the 2017 household estimates which is available from <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/household-estimates>.

