

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

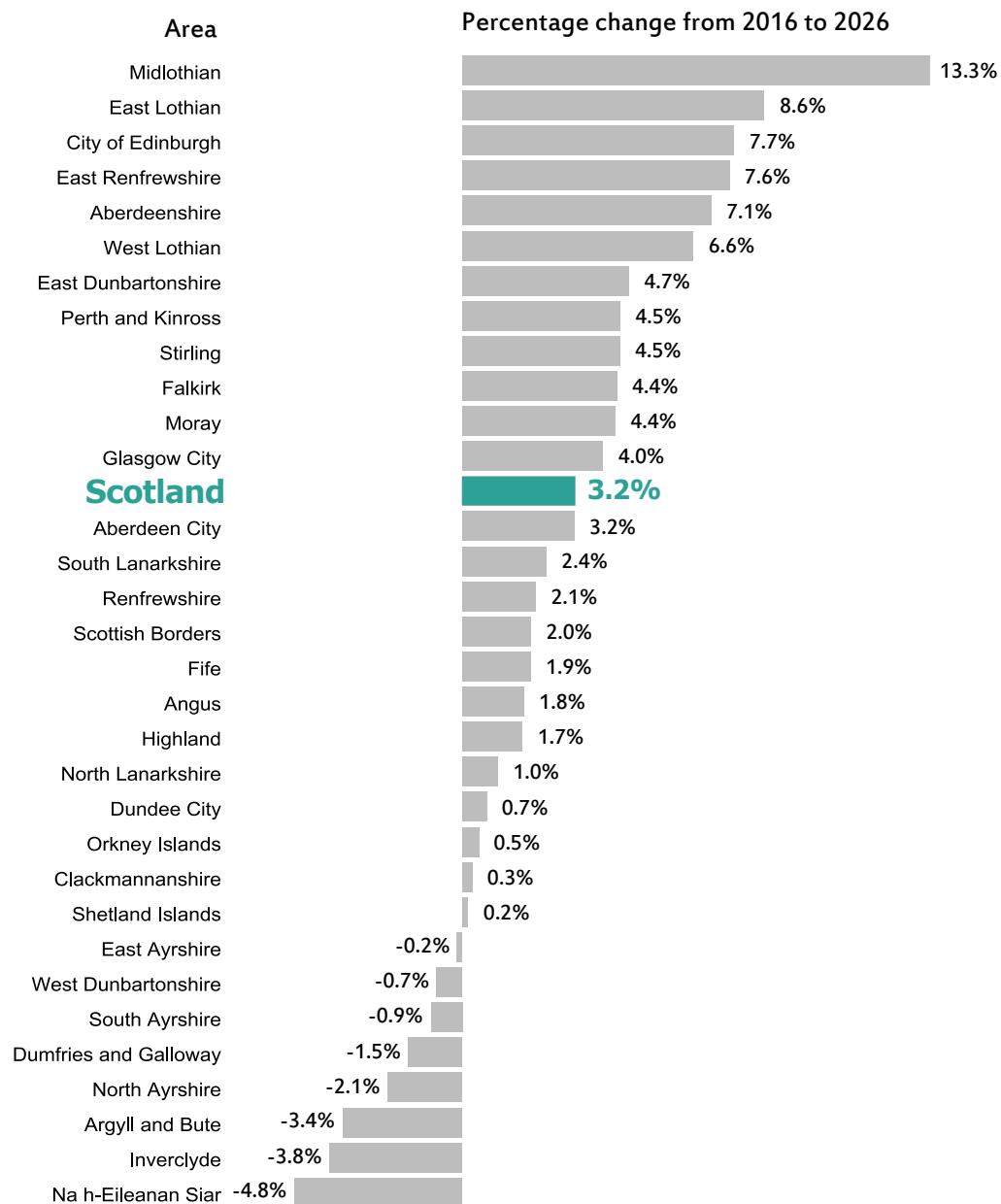
5.40m
in 2016

5.58m
in 2026



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

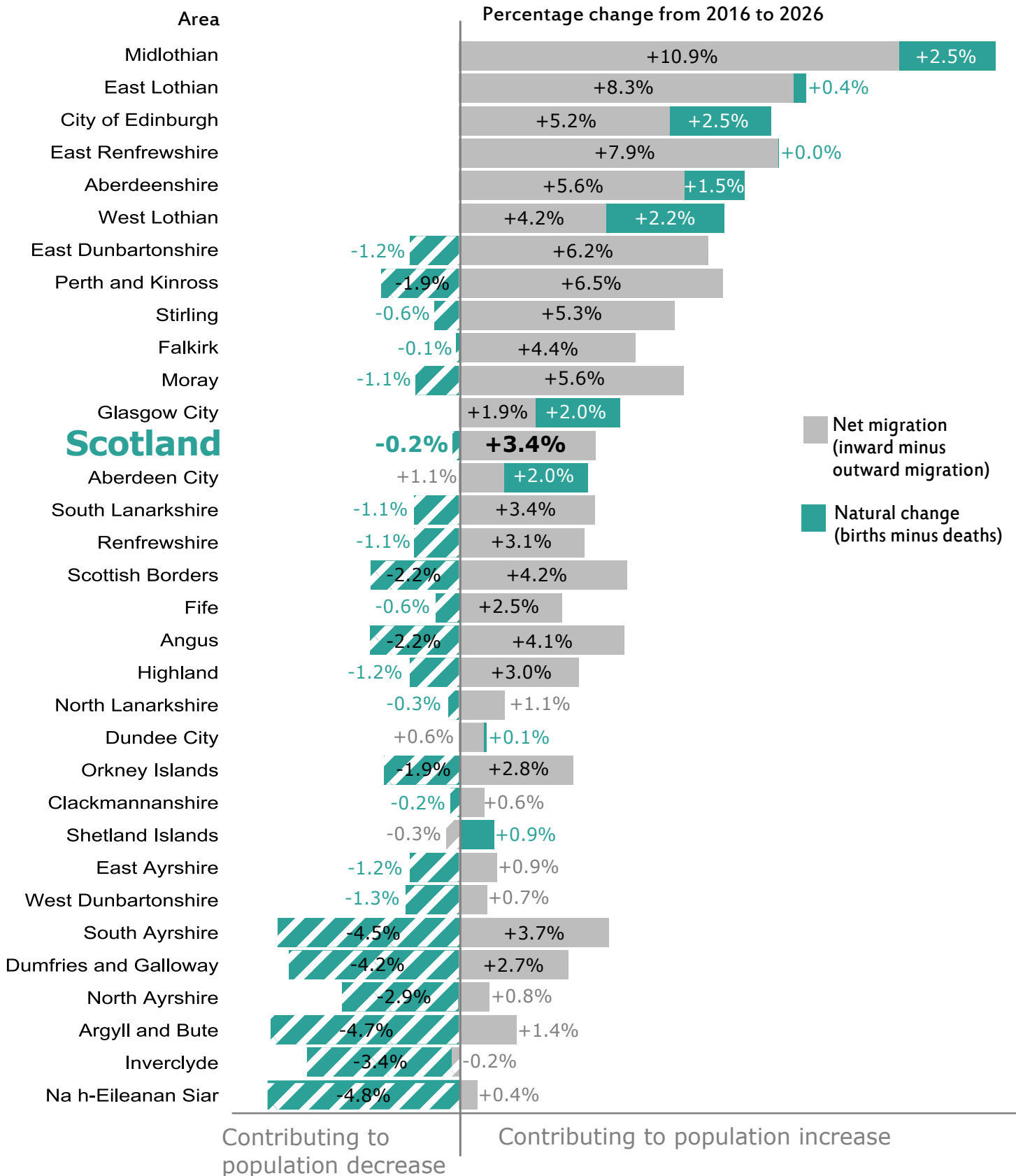
Most council areas are projected to increase in population over the next 10 years. However, a quarter of councils are projected to experience a population decrease over this period.



Migration is driving projected increases in population in most areas

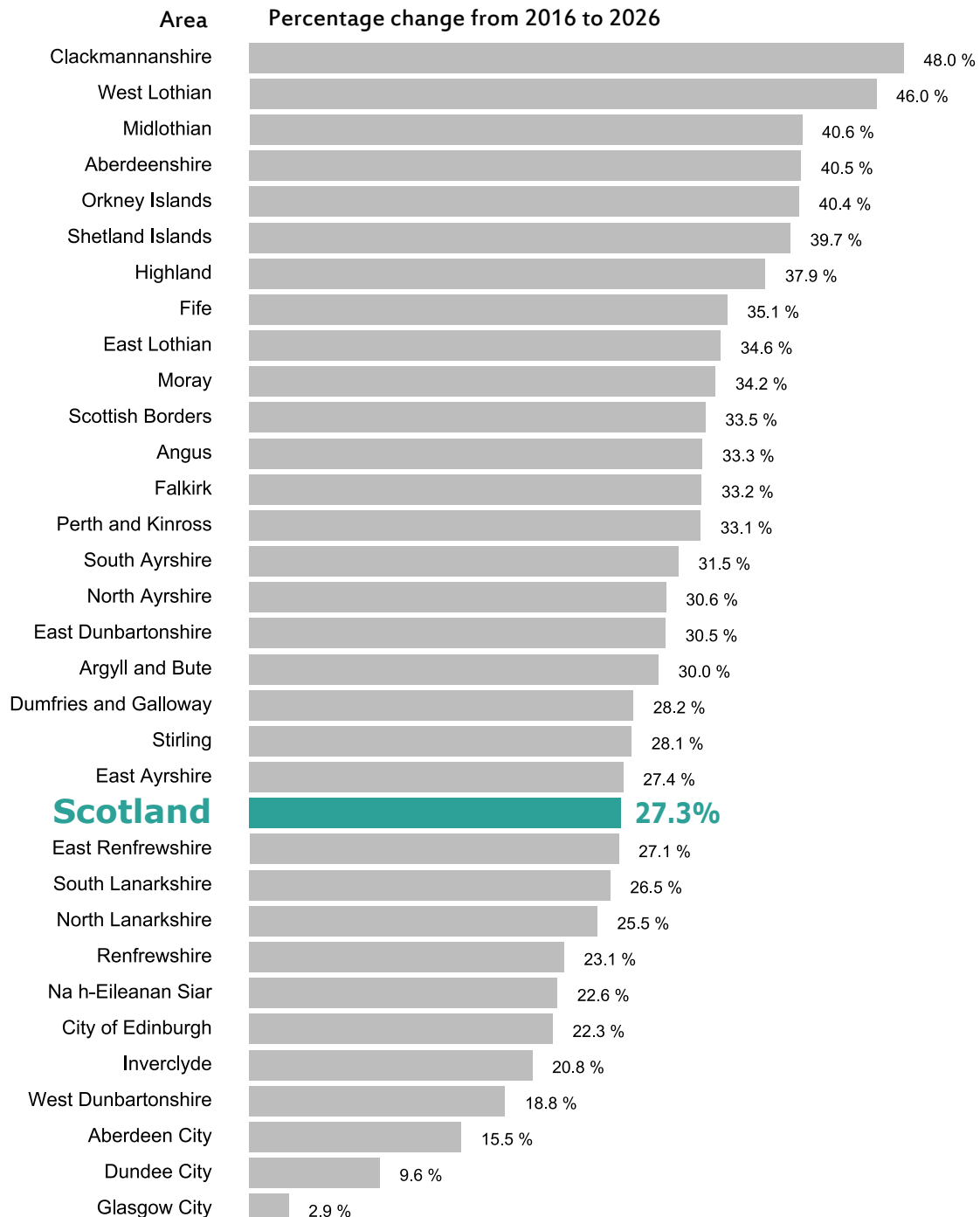
All councils except Inverclyde and Shetland Islands, which are projected to have small decreases of 0.2% and 0.3% respectively, are projected to experience population increase due to net migration over the next 10 years. This includes migration to and from overseas, the rest of the UK and within Scotland.

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.**

