

POPULATION AND MIGRATION STATISTICS COMMITTEE (SCOTLAND)

FRESH TALENT: DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

Introduction

1. This paper provides demographic background information for the inquiry into Fresh Talent by the European and External Relations Committee of the Scottish Parliament. Interesting points on migration include:

- between mid-2002 and mid-2003, around 9,000 more people moved to Scotland than moved away;
- more people come to Scottish universities (7,939 in academic year 2002-03) than move in the reverse direction (6,110);
- more Scottish graduates stay in Scotland now than pre-devolution;
- migrants, especially those from overseas, tend to be young;
- over half of in-migrants from overseas come from Europe and the US;
- Scotland attracts more migrants, per head of population, than most of the UK.

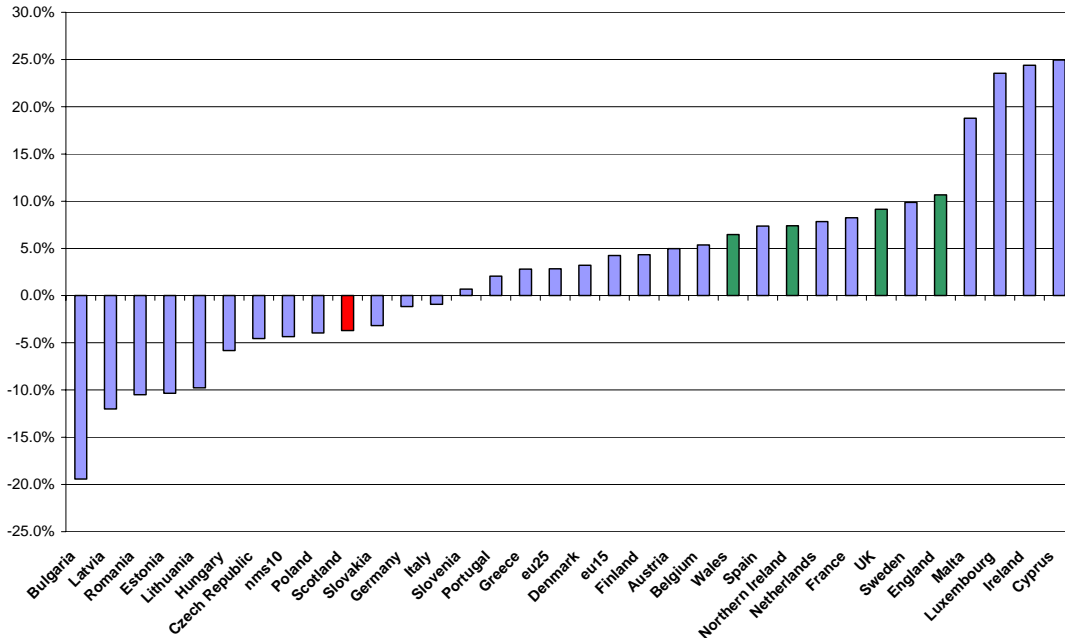
Scotland's Population

2. Scotland's population in mid-2003 is estimated at 5.06 million. It has been falling slowly since the mid-1970s (peak of 5.24 million in 1974), having exceeded 5 million for the first time in 1939. Looking forward, the population is projected to reduce to 4.88 million by 2028, falling below 5 million in 2017.

3. The population is reducing because the number of births has since 1998 been below the number of deaths (by just over 2,000 according to provisional figures for 2004) and net in-migration has not been sufficient to compensate.

4. Scotland is not alone in having a "natural decrease" in population (i.e. deaths exceed births). But, for most of Europe, this is compensated by higher in-migration than in Scotland. The population of Europe (EU-25) is projected to increase (by 2.9% between 2004 and 2028). Only the new accession states in eastern Europe have a projected population decline which exceeds Scotland's, as Figure 1 shows:-

Figure 1 Projected Percentage Population Change in Selected European Countries 2004-2028

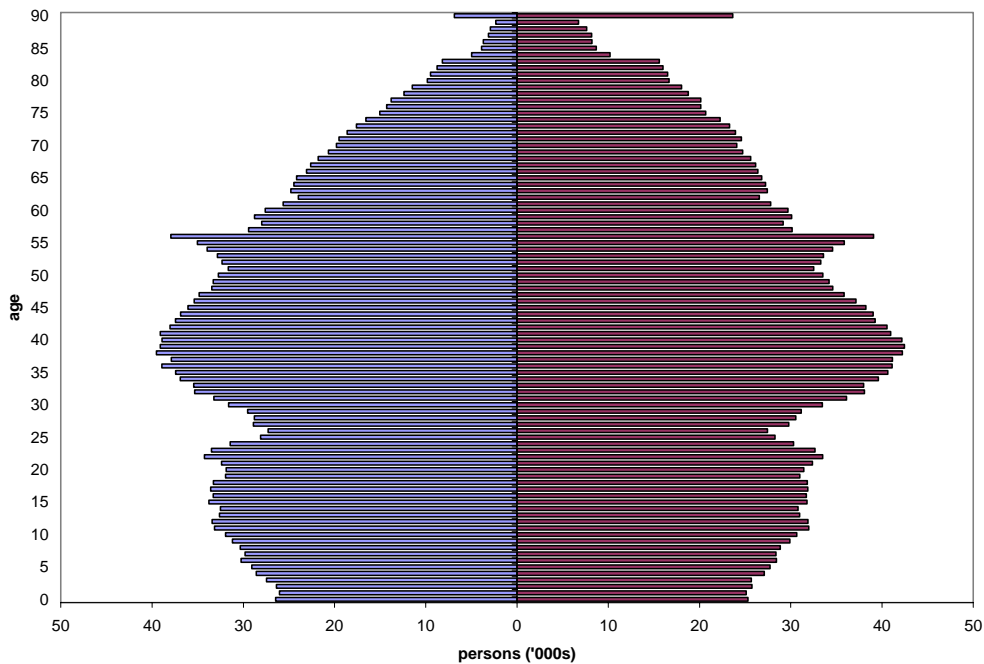


Source: GAD (UK and constituent countries) and Eurostat. Note: Eurostat also publish an alternative UK projection not shown here.

Age Structure

5. Figure 2 shows Scotland's "age pyramid" in 2003. There are peaks of people in their mid-50s and mid-30s – the result of the "baby booms" after the second world war and in the 1960s. The recent decline in births is reflected in the tapering at younger ages. There are relatively more elderly women aged over 75.

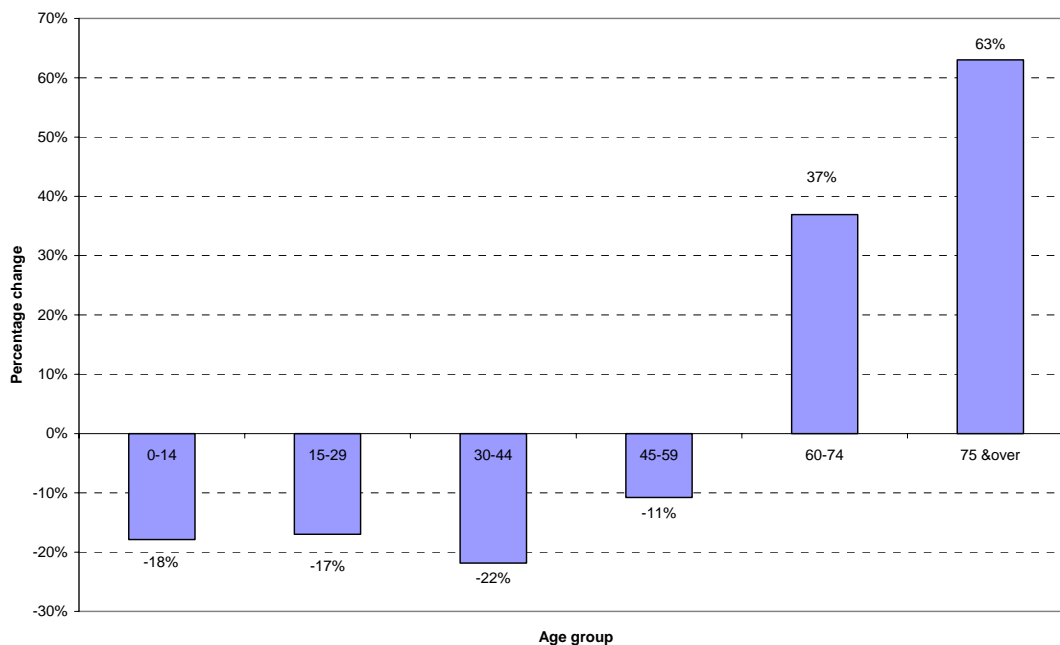
Figure 2 Estimated population by age and sex, 30 June 2003



Source: GROS 2003 mid-year population estimates.

6. Looking forward, Scotland can expect to see fewer people in the younger age groups and more older people (particularly aged 75 and over), as Figure 3 shows:-

Figure 3 Projected percentage change in age structure of Scotland's population 2003-2028



Source: GAD 2003-based interim national population projections.

7. This means that the labour force will reduce, as a percentage of total population, as Figure 4 shows:-

Figure 4 Age structure of Scotland's population 2003-2043

	2003	2016	2028	2043
Children ¹	19%	16%	16%	15%
Working Age ¹	62%	63%	59%	56%
Pension Age ¹	19%	21%	25%	29%

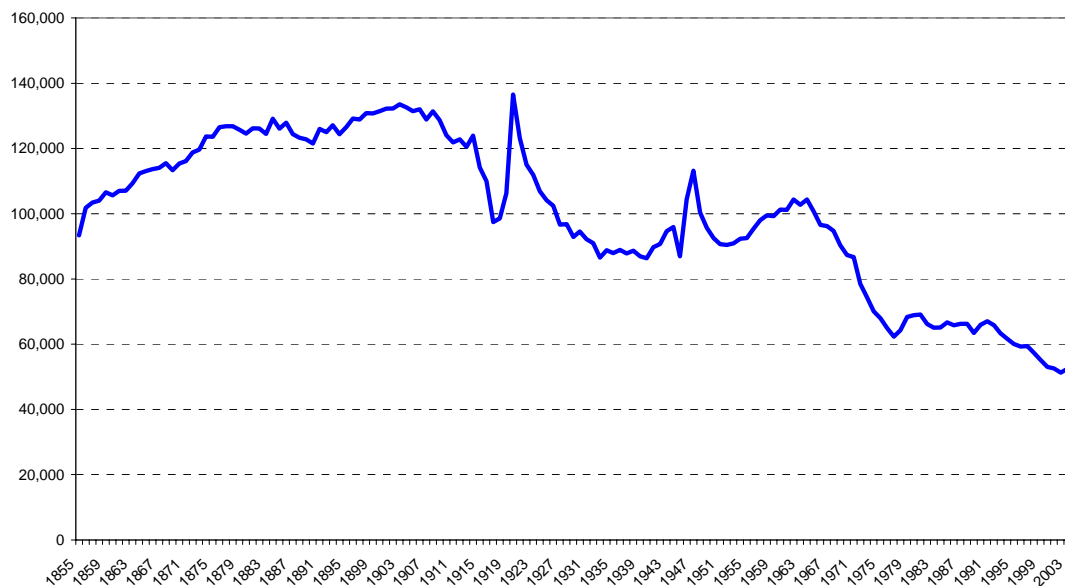
¹ Children under 16. Working age and pensionable age populations based on state pension age for given year. Between 2010 and 2020, state pension age will change from 65 years for men and 60 years for women, to 65 years for both sexes.

Source: GROS 2003 mid-year population estimates and GAD 2003-based interim national population projections.

Births

8. The long term trend in the number of births has been downwards for many years, as Figure 5 shows:-

Figure 5 Live births Scotland 1855 to 2004

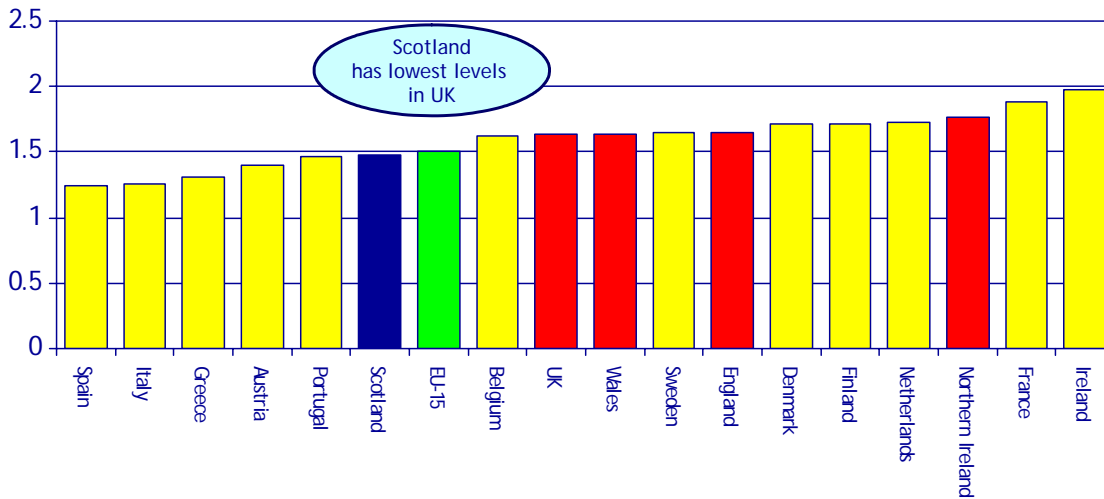


Source: GROS registration data. Note: Figures for 2004 are provisional.

9. The number of births in 2002 (51,270) was the lowest since civil registration began in 1855. Since then, however, the number has increased. The provisional total in 2004 (53,957) was the highest in 5 years and 2.9% more than in 2003. The smaller number of births has been accompanied by a trend towards later child bearing. In 2003, the average age of all mothers was 29.3 – compared with 27.4 in 1991, 26.1 in 1977 and 27.4 in 1964.

10. Scotland's birth rate (10.7 per thousand in 2004) is lower than the UK (11.7) and some European countries such as France (12.7) and Ireland (14.2). But, as Figure 6 shows, Scotland's total fertility rate is very similar to the European average:-

Figure 6 Total Fertility Rates, Selected Countries



2002

Source: GROS and Eurostat

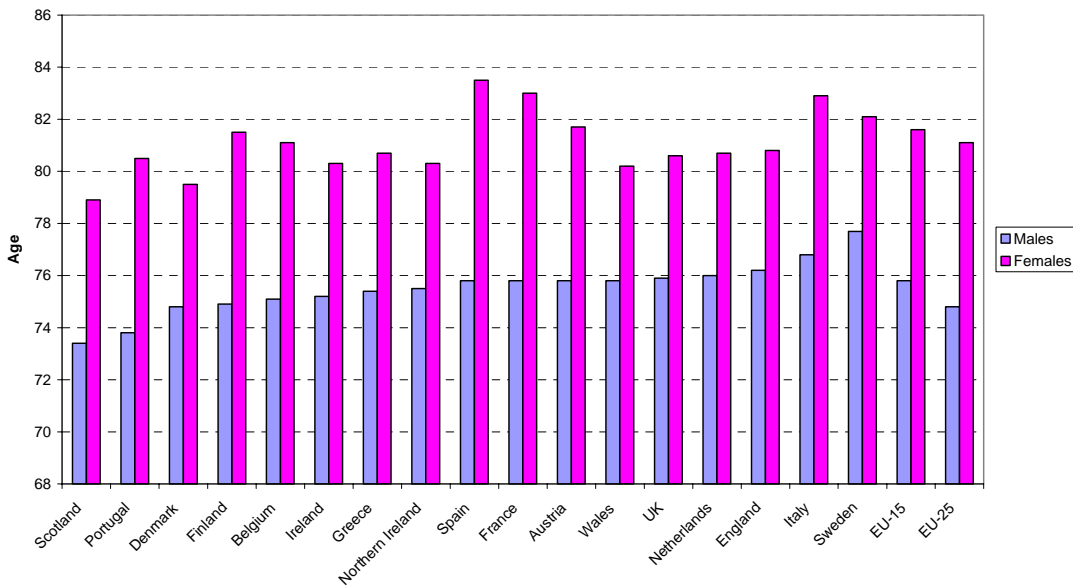
Note: For some countries, data is for previous years

Deaths

11. The number of deaths has been falling gradually for many years. In 1975, for example, the number of deaths was 63,125, while the provisional total for 2004 was 56,187 – the lowest-ever level and 4% below 2003.

12. Despite these improvements, Scotland's death rate (provisionally 11.1 per thousand in 2004) remains very high compared with the UK (10.3 in 2003) or the rest of Europe (9.8 in 2002 for EU-25). Life expectancy, similarly, is improving but still well below the UK and most parts of Europe as Figure 7 shows:-

Figure 7 Life expectancy at birth, Selected Countries 2002



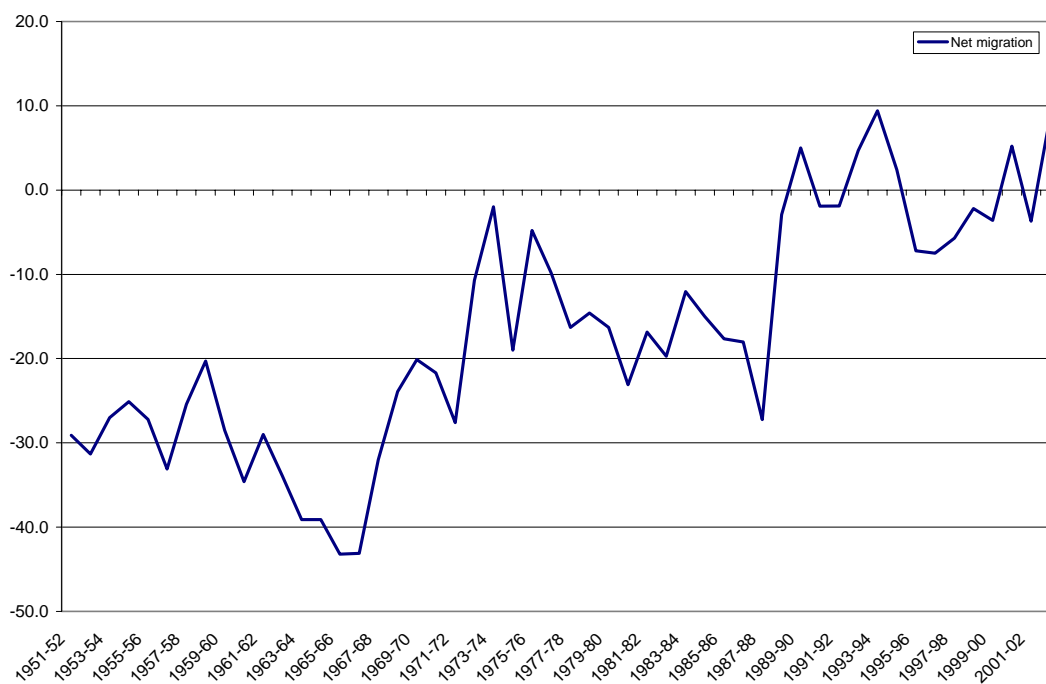
Source: GAD (UK and constituent countries) and Eurostat.

Migration

13. Migration is much harder to measure than births and deaths. People can move within the UK, emigrate, or move to the UK from within the European Economic Area with no obligation to register their migration. The best available sources of information are GP registrations and the International Passenger Survey (IPS) which samples people using the principal air, sea and tunnel routes to and from the UK. The IPS sample is small, particularly for Scottish migrants (approximately 120 survey contacts during 2002) and estimates derived from the IPS are therefore less reliable than UK-level estimates – particularly as regards country of origin/destination and age of migrants. The 2001 Census, however, provides a snapshot of better data, based on the Census question about “What was your usual address one year ago?” Even that, however, does not identify people who were in Scotland one year ago but have since moved outwith the UK.

14. Traditionally, Scotland was a country of emigration. For example, in the mid-1960s there was a net outflow of around 40,000 people per year. That has completely changed. Since the early 1990s, inflows and outflows have been approximately equal, while in 2002-03 there was net in-migration of around 9,000, as Figure 8 shows:-

Figure 8 Estimated net migration, Scotland, 1951-2003

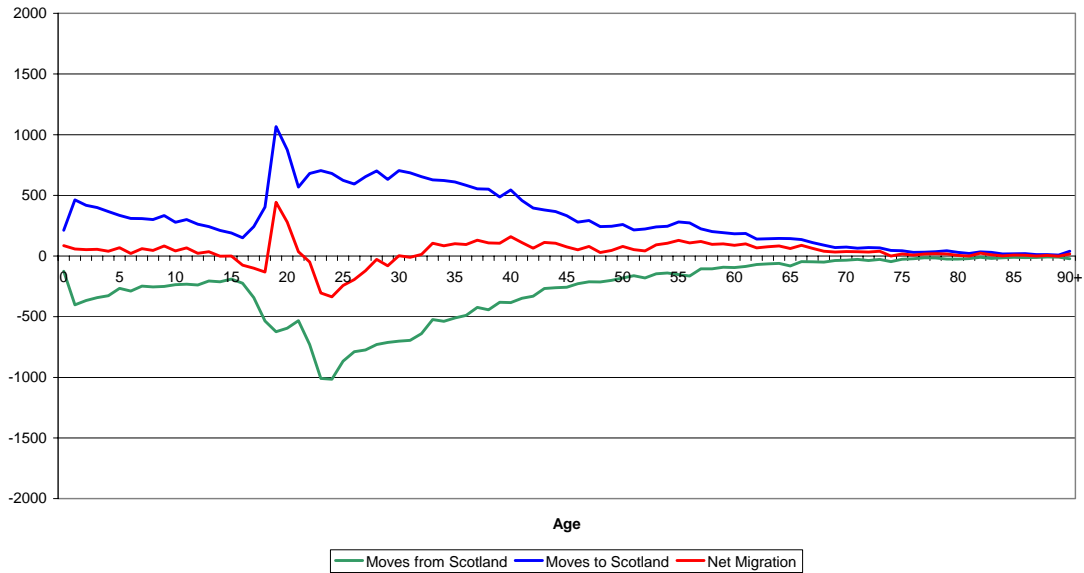


Source: GROS “Scotland’s Population 2003”.

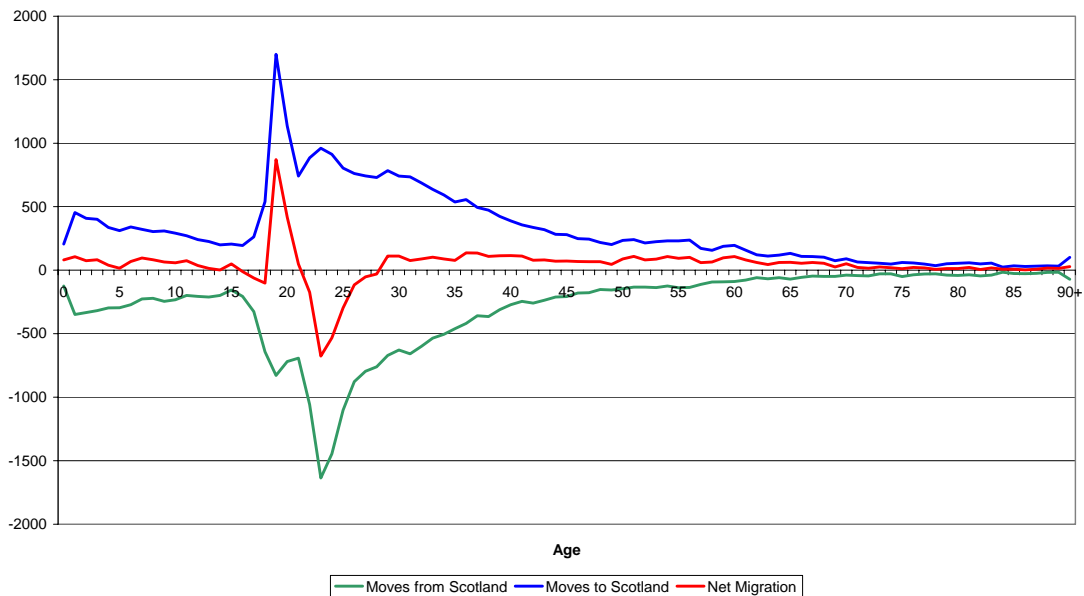
15. Broadly speaking, migrant flows in and out of Scotland in recent years have been 70,000+ in each direction (50,000+ migrating to or from other parts of the UK and 20,000+ to and from the rest of the world). The level of net migration can be significantly affected by relatively small changes in these gross flows from year to year, particularly if one flow rises while the other falls.

16. Most migrants are young. The peak ages for migrating are the late teens and mid-20s, reflecting moves out of the parental home to attend higher education or take up employment. Scotland has net migration **gains** at ages 19 and 20 and net migration **losses** at ages 23 and 24. This partly reflects the fact that more people come to Scottish universities for higher education (7,939 in academic year 2002-03) than move in the reverse direction (6,110). This is illustrated by Figure 9 which shows migrants to and from the rest of the UK:-

Figure 9 Movements between Scotland and the rest of the UK, by age, mid 2002 - mid 2003
Males



Females



Source: National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) patient movements mid-02 to mid-03.

17. Scotland is increasingly good at retaining students – both Scots-domiciled and others – who come to study at Scottish higher education institutions, as Figure 10 shows:-

Figure 10 Graduates gaining permanent employment in Scotland¹ by domicile and location of higher education institute

Domicile	Location of HEI	Academic year	Percentage with employment in Scotland
Scotland	Scotland	1999/00	79
		2000/01	85
		2001/02	87
		2002/03	89
	Rest of the UK	1999/00	25
		2000/01	29
		2001/02	28
		2002/03	30
Rest of the UK	Scotland	1999/00	28
		2000/01	30
		2001/02	31
		2002/03	33
	Rest of the UK	1999/00	0
		2000/01	0
		2001/02	0
		2002/03	0
European Union	Scotland	1999/00	21
		2000/01	20
		2001/02	22
		2002/03	21
	Rest of the UK	1999/00	0
		2000/01	0
		2001/02	0
		2002/03	0

¹ Expressed as a percentage of all gaining permanent UK or overseas employment.

Source: Up to 2001/02 HESA First Destination Survey (FDS), 2002/03 HESA Destination of Leavers of Higher Education (DLHE)².

Notes: 1 The collection of destinations for graduates from HEIs is based on a voluntary survey to individual students of all nationalities within the European Union. The survey is undertaken by HESA and is based on a population of primarily full-time students during the academic year, and typically refers to the destination of students six months after graduation.

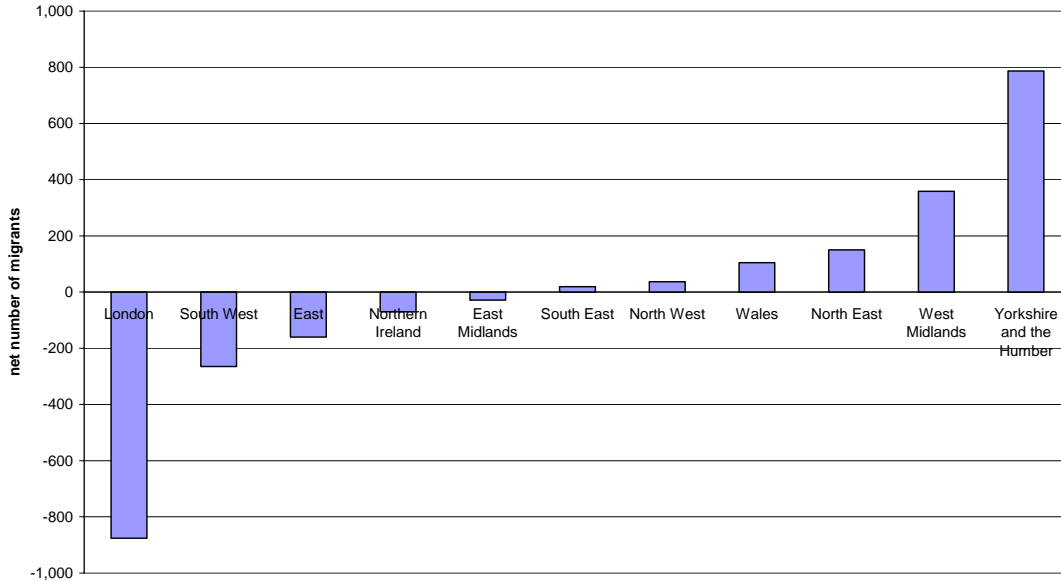
2 HESA have between 2001/02 and 2002/03 made changes to the survey they use to collect this information. As a result there may be a small discontinuity between 2001/02 and 2002/03.

18. The key characteristics of migration **to and from the UK** in the year before the 2001 Census are:-

- the number of people who moved to Scotland from England, Wales and Northern Ireland (47,823) was almost exactly the same as the number moving in the opposite direction (47,766);

- There was net out-migration to some parts of the UK (particularly London and the South West) and net in-migration from other parts (particularly the West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber), as Figure 11 shows:-

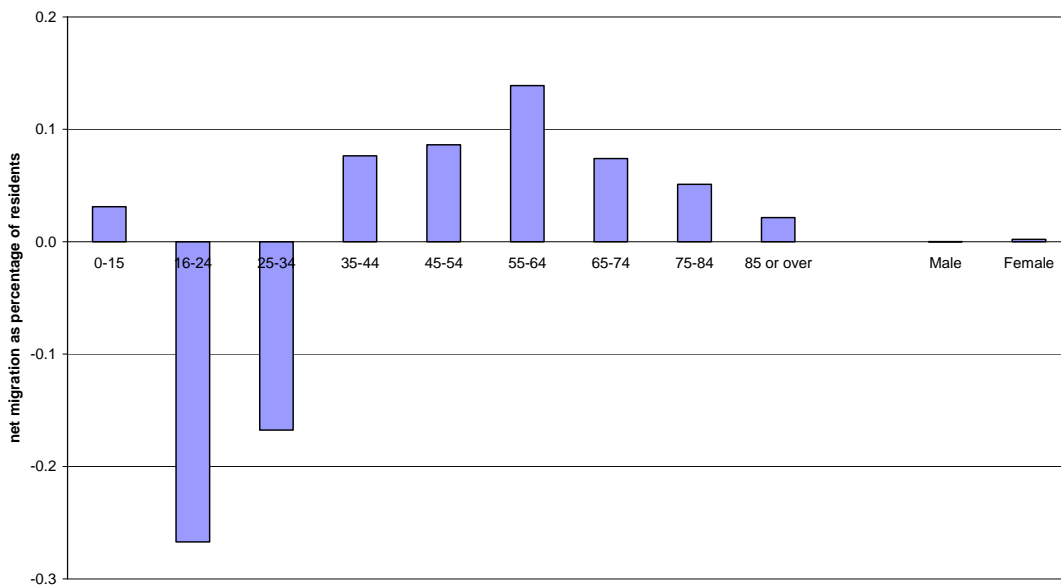
Figure 11 Net migration to rest of UK by region



Source: 2001 Census

- Scotland lost people in the 16-24 and 25-34 age bands, and gained people in all other age bands, as Figure 12 shows:-

Figure 12 Net migration from rest of UK by age, sex

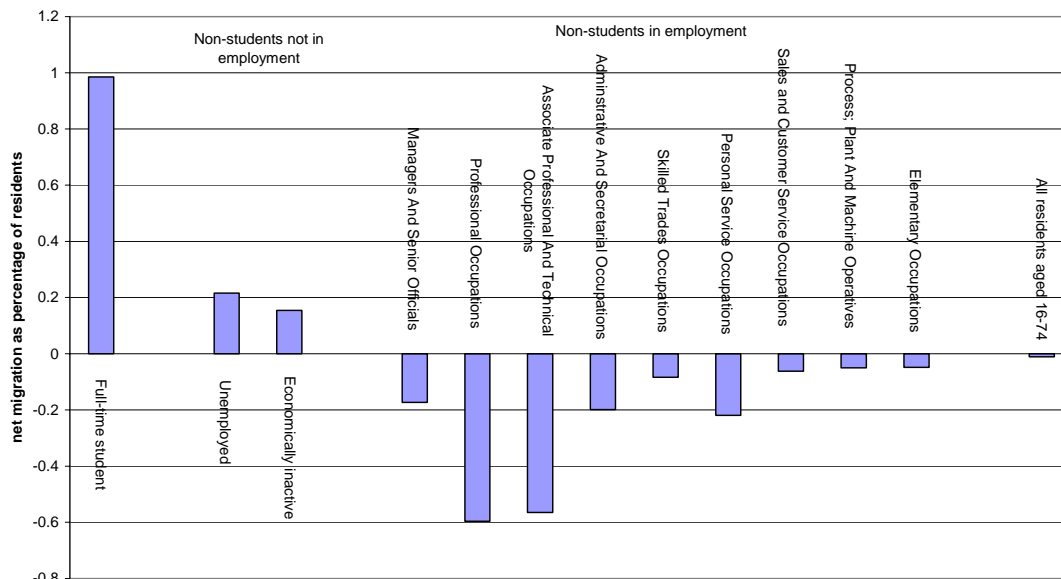


Source: 2001 Census

- Migration was twice as prevalent among non-white ethnic groups as among white groups;

- There was a net loss of just under 400 non-whites to the rest of the UK;
- There was a net gain from the rest of the UK of people with a limiting long-term illness and a corresponding loss of people with no such illness.
- There were net gains of people who were students, unemployed and economically inactive and net losses in employed people (particularly professional and technical occupations) as Figure 13 shows:-

Figure 13 Net migration from rest of UK by economic position and occupation



Source: 2001 Census

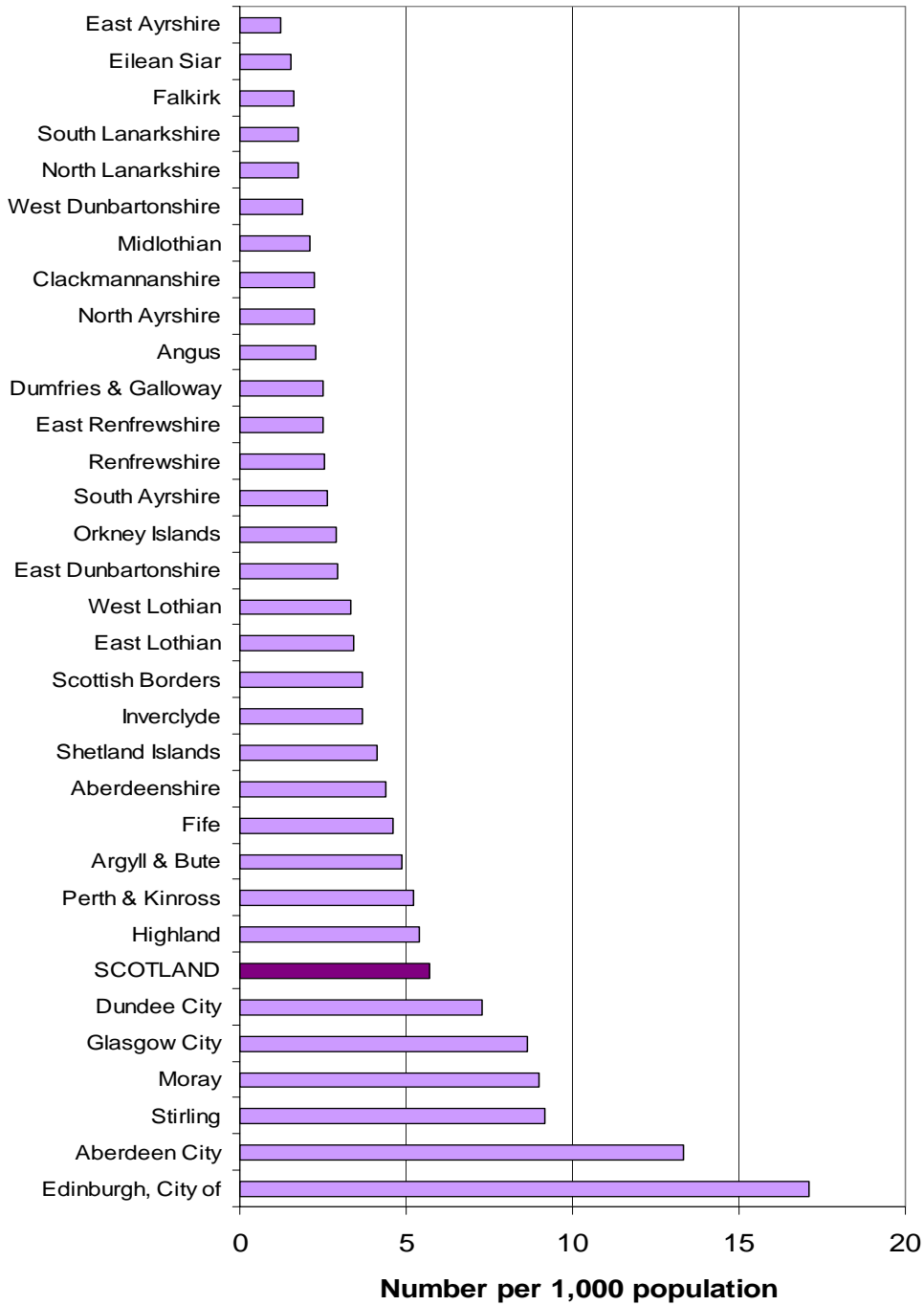
- There was a net loss of over 4000 people with a degree or higher qualification;
- Younger people tended to be attracted to cities and university areas and older people to rural areas;
- Rural areas were the main gainers of migrants;
- There were almost twice as many Scots-born people living in England as English-born people living in Scotland: two-thirds of this difference was accounted for by people aged 45 and over, probably reflecting high levels of out-migration from Scotland in the 1960s and 1970s.

19. Almost 29,000 people had moved **to Scotland from abroad** in the year before the 2001 Census. (The Census does not record the number of people moving in the opposite direction.) Some interesting features are:-

- 62% of migrants from abroad were aged 16-34 - much higher than the comparable figure for the domestic population (25%) or migrants from the rest of the UK (53%);
- Only 4% of foreign migrants were aged 55 and over, much lower than migrants from the rest of the UK (10%);

- Edinburgh and Aberdeen had the highest number of migrants from abroad relative to population (respectively 17 and 13 per thousand population) while East Ayrshire had the lowest (1 per thousand) as Figure 14 shows:-

Figure 14 - Number, per 1,000 population, of in-migrants to Scottish local authority areas from outwith the United Kingdom



- The country which contributed most migrants was the United States (10% of all migrants from overseas);
- 43% of overseas migrants came from elsewhere in Europe (with Germany, France, Spain and the Republic of Ireland providing the largest number); 21% came from Asia; a further 15, 11 and 9% came from North America, Oceania and Africa;
- A quarter of the migrants coming from abroad were Scots-born – varying from 40% of people coming in from Australia to 3% from India;
- The number of migrants from abroad represented 5.7 people per 1,000 population. This ratio was the 5th highest of the UK regions, lower only than London (16.9), South East (8.9), East (6.8) and South West (5.9), and substantially higher than Wales (3.4).

Regional Variations

20. The information so far quoted in this paper relates to the whole of Scotland. But there are large regional variations.

21. Rural areas generally have above-average fertility. For example, in 2003 Eilean Siar and Shetland were the local authority areas with the highest age-standardised birth rate (that is, a birth rate which reflects the proportion of the population of child bearing age). Fertility tends to be extremely low in the cities. Death rates are high, and life expectancy low, in Greater Glasgow and, to a lesser extent some other parts of west central Scotland.

21. The patterns of migration over the period 1993-2003 indicate the highest net out-migration rates in: Eilean Siar, the Shetland Islands and Aberdeen City. The highest net in-migration rates were in East Lothian, West Lothian, Stirling and Perth and Kinross.

22. The combined effect of these factors, along with the underlying population structure, results in the pattern of population change shown in the Annex. Between 1993 and 2003, the population increased by more than 6% in West Lothian, East Lothian and Stirling and decreased by more than 6% in Eilean Siar, Inverclyde, Dundee City and Glasgow City.

Duncan Macniven
Registrar General for Scotland

22 April 2005

Annex Percentage population change by Council area, 1993-2003

